

SUMMER 2009

UNITY

ACADEMIC RENEWAL

Recruiting the Right Students

LEED Platinum for Unity House

Partnership Leads to Community Market

Hub of Regional Arts Scene





UNITY

SUMMER 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What makes a college vibrant? How can it best serve its students?
How can it play an intellectual, ecological, and economic role in the community and the region?

We have established an organizational culture at Unity College in which questions such as these pervade all of the work that we do. We are so engaged not only because of the sheer virtue of asking such questions, but also because our success as a college depends on our versatility and creativity in addressing them.

Higher education has come under a great deal of scrutiny in recent years. This scrutiny will only intensify in difficult economic times. At Unity, we are doing our best to promote a learning experience that emphasizes real world application so our students can serve their communities well, find themselves meaningful work, and pursue lives and careers of service.

The best way to do this is to create dynamic, interesting, and flourishing partnerships. This includes relationships with local, regional, national (and even international) NGO’s, businesses, entrepreneurs, educators, and government agencies. It involves ar-rangements with other colleges with whom we can share resources. We are currently exploring partnerships with community colleges, other four-year colleges, and graduate schools, all in an effort to share resources, expand opportunities for our students, cultivate resources and funding, and broaden our influence as a college.

It’s helpful to remember that whenever Unity College negotiates a fulfilling partnership, we get to see ourselves differently. We learn about new approaches to learning, we experience diverse cultural milieus, and we open our eyes to new ways of thinking. In doing so, we not only get great ideas for improving our college, but we get a wonderful sense of what we have to contribute. We have a powerful educational voice, and we have a great deal to share.

Indeed, there are dozens of institutions that seek to partner with us. We have choices to make. As a small college, we have to ensure that every partnership broadens our opportunities without limiting our finances. We emphasize the importance of truly shared partnerships that will enhance our mission: broadening the constituency for conservation; promoting sustainable solutions; advancing field-based, hands-on learning.

For any small college, especially one as rural and niche-oriented as Unity, a partnership future will ensure its long-term resilience and vitality. As you read this issue of Unity Magazine, I hope you enjoy learning about all of the wonderful partnerships that are intrinsic to the future of our college.

Mitchell Thomashow
President, Unity College

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Adventure doesn’t only mean collecting specimens in the wild, it can mean making discoveries in the laboratory.

A wise environmental educator once observed that there can be no “environmental science” without the science part. While this is obvious, at times the popular images of adventurous Unity College students overshadow our strong science curriculum.

It is a curriculum that places students in classrooms, laboratories and as the cover depicts, in the Koons Hall greenhouse for a healthy dose of hands-on scientific research. Hands-on learning is not only about pursuing activities under a big sky.

Unity trains the next generation of environmental leaders to be creative problem solvers, fluid thinkers, researchers, and lifelong learners. This educational approach includes nurturing personal interests and talents, encouraging artistic expression through interdisciplinary learning, and providing a strong skill set for professional success in the sciences, government, entrepreneurial and other endeavors.

Hopefully, the result of this approach is that each year, well-rounded individuals who are committed to service set forth at commencement.

There is every indication to think this is in fact what happens at commencement, and those graduates serve as the best measure of Unity’s value to those it serves and most importantly, to the environment it is committed to preserving.

To continue its mission, Unity must take its cues from nature, consistently adapting to meet the challenges of its environment.

Every successful organization weathers challenging times, takes advantage of seasons to reap, and appropriately nurtures for a bountiful harvest. So it is with Unity College, which in recent years has seen significant change that some liken to planting for a future season. The noticeable changes made in this edition of the magazine are intended to more accurately reflect the full measure of this College. Such changes include a consolidation of the CommUnity Connections alumni newsletter into the magazine.

Content continues to hopefully provide an accurate overview of the College as it continues to mature, for strictly speaking, a college begun in 1965 is far less than middle aged. Just as Unity graduates take on progressively greater responsibility as their careers progress, so too is this magazine intending to offer a more accurate picture of the College as it is at present.

The goals for Unity College are indeed high. President Mitchell Thomashow has articulated impressive aspirations for the College. He has consistently pointed to all that the College has achieved in recent years as evidence of what is still to come. Three Fulbright Fellowship winners on the faculty, scores of student awards won, national media recognition, and the ever increasing academic preparedness of each incoming class are indications that Unity College is well on its way to achieving a place among the very best small environmental colleges in the United States.

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On the Cover
Jacqueline Hart '12 of Troy, New York, recording data in the greenhouse at Koons Hall one afternoon when Olivia Hanson '11 snapped her photo.

We want to hear from you.
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LETTERS

Community Partner Praises Unity

What a privilege it is to have Unity College so close by. At Bangor Savings Bank we strive to work with the people and businesses that make up our wonderful Maine communities. As the Coastal Market Manager (which includes Unity) for the bank it is essential that I know what is happening at Unity College. The new and exciting activities and ideas that are continuously coming out of the College are truly amazing. Each fantastic magazine highlights the exciting things happening there.

I like to think that I have a relatively close connection to the College as a business partner and supporter. I am honored to facilitate our partnership with them. I look forward to many years of working together and promoting the various aspects that Unity College so proudly represents. It is because of their mission and values—and how those align with our own—that we are proud to display Unity in our branches, serve their students, and employees and sponsor and promote their activities and accomplishments.

Dawn Place
AVP/Coastal Area Sales Manager
Bangor Savings Bank

Green Jobs for Grads

It is so wonderful to see that Unity College is promoting green sustainable living. I recently found an interesting article called the “10 Best Green Jobs” on the Environmental News Network (www.enr.com/top_stories/

article/39139). More than ever before, a more sustainable approach to employment and the economy is important for our common future. I am proud to say that many of those fields can be found through the teachings and experiences at Unity College. As an alum in one of those fields, I hope you continue the great work.

Dana Kedziora '07

Walking the Talk

It’s great to see that a college boasting environmental programs that grooms future preservationists and conservationists is walking the talk. Unity House as well as previous construction on the college campus is a wonderful tribute to environmentally conscience building. When the need to build arises we should all make an attempt to do it in a way that is friendlier to our environment.

Brett Bowser '04

Training the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

In response to the article “Education in a Changing Climate” in the Fall 2008 Unity Magazine, I was most impressed with the emotional investment that the workshop’s attendees had in changing society’s current outlook on climate change. Many times it seems as though the responsibility of addressing climate change rests in the hands of future generations, without guidance of today’s educators. However, reading about the

educators who came to Unity to discuss alternative approaches to climate change education gives following generations a feeling of collaboration and the hope that is important for tackling environmental issues of today’s world. The educators had mentioned how difficult it was to remain optimistic at times, a sentiment that has been echoed across the country in response to all environmental issues. Yet, one of the most important ideas raised at this workshop was that continuing to care about the environment will give you all the cause you need to keep fighting through strife and discouragement. Conferences such as this one are an important step in the approach to such a large issue. Eventually people will come together, take hold of the issue and begin to solve it, one step at a time.

Sarah Riley '12

Keeping the Air Clean

It’s nice to know that the environmental future of my children is in the hands of people like Unity College graduates. The worries a mother has for her children are extensive and it’s comforting to me that there are people out there that want to make a career keeping the earth habitable and prosperous for future generations. Knowing there are people that will be working to keep the furry critters around and the air clean for my children is a wonderful thing.

Reeta Benedict, staff

Partnership with Google

Inauguration Draws Solar Panel to D.C.

Thanks to Unity College, one of the original solar panels former President Jimmy Carter put up on the White House has returned home—almost. The solar panel is on display in the lobby of the Washington, D.C., headquarters of Google, in time for the presidential inauguration Tuesday of Barack Obama. Unity College has had the original 32 Carter solar panels since 1991.

The environmental college and the Internet search-engine company reached a loan agreement to transport the solar panel to highlight the importance of alternative-energy sources for the United States and the possibility of greater support for them under the Obama administration.

“It’s an exciting journey for the panel. It’s about the green economy,” said Rob Constantine, the College’s vice president for advancement. “We want to demonstrate that Maine is at the forefront of that as we talk of real-world, sustainable-energy solutions.”

As part of his economic-stimulus plan, Obama proposes to double the output of alternative energy over the next three years. The Obama administration also has called for 10 percent of the country’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.

Coinciding with the solar panel’s arrival is a “green ball,” to be hosted by former Vice President Al Gore on Monday and sponsored in part by Google, welcoming President Obama and his wife, Michelle, and other dignitaries. Mitchell Thomashow, president of Unity College, plans to attend the ball.

Google will tell the story of Unity College and the former White House solar panels, college officials said.

In June 1979, Carter proposed a “new solar strategy” to “move our nation toward true energy security and abundant, readily available energy supplies,” according to the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum in Atlanta, Ga. To set an example—and establish a prominent symbol—for the country, Carter had solar panels installed on the roof of the White House West Wing to heat water for the staff mess and other areas.

At the time, Carter warned, “a generation from now, this solar heater can either be a curiosity, a museum piece, an example of a road not taken, or it can be a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people; harnessing the power of the sun to enrich our lives as

we move away from our crippling dependence on foreign oil.”

President Ronald Reagan took the solar panels down in 1986 when the White House roof was repaired.

Flash forward 20 years, when Swiss directors Christina Hemauer and Roman Keller started making a documentary film about the panels as a lead-in to exploring American oil dependency and alternative-energy sources.

In the film, “A Road Not Taken,” the two directors join two Unity College students—Sara Trunzo and Jason Reynolds—and load two panels into the back of the students’ pickup truck (modified to run on vegetable-oil diesel) and deliver the panels to the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum in Atlanta, where they remain on display. The film debuted last July at the Maine International Film Festival in Waterville.

Trunzo, a 2008 graduate who is now the college’s community-market coordinator, said the latest journey of a Carter solar panel is “really exciting and not that surprising.”

“I feel like there’s a lot of serendipitous occurrences around the solar panels. It’s been a really great tool, because it gets you excited not just about alternative energy, but about American history as well.” Trunzo said.

Recent news coverage of the documentary film caught the



Documentary filmmakers Roman Keller (left) and Christina Hemauer outside Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville during the 2008 Maine International Film Festival in July. They posed with several of the Carter solar panels and the grease burning 1990 Dodge Ram pickup truck owned by Jason Reynolds '06 and Sara Trunzo '08, who were in the documentary.



Above, the array of 16 solar panels formerly atop the White House have not been functional since 2002, however, they are still in place above the cafeteria between the North and South Coop buildings. One of the names displayed on renovated panels is that of Academy Award winning actress Glenn Close, who donated money to renovate them prior to their installation.

attention of many Internet blogs and, ultimately, of Google officials, who initiated contact with Unity College about the arrangement, Constantine said. Under their agreement, Google has been loaned the panel for one year.

Google sent a truck to load the panel—it’s 6 feet by 3 feet, 6 inches—and it arrived at the D.C. headquarters on Friday, Constantine said.

“The panels are an important piece of American energy history and policy, and we want to be good stewards of the panels. We want to make sure whomever is using them represents what they represent,” Constantine said.

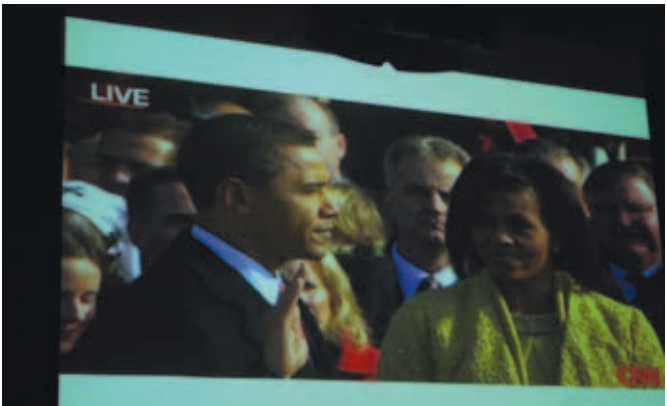
Google spokesman Jamie Yood said his company has invested in alternative energy projects, such as spending \$4.5 million to help companies develop renewable energy that costs less than coal and investing millions of dollars in developing plug-in electric vehicles that get 90 miles a gallon.

Yood said Google officials are thrilled to receive the solar panel to highlight the importance of future energy solutions—and the history behind them.

“It’s a fun way to talk about the story of the panels,” Yood said. “We’re excited about it.”

Written by Scott Monroe and reprinted courtesy of the Morning Sentinel.

Below, President Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States as his wife, Michelle, looks on, on the big screen at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts LIVE on January 20.



Student Conference Showcases Arts and Science Projects

Often the image of Unity College is one of adventurous students shooting rapids, paddling a kayak to reach an island in Casco Bay, or rappelling down the side of a mountain. While these images are certainly accurate representations of life at Unity College, they are just pieces of the complex puzzle that is Unity at present.

The sciences at Unity College form the backbone of the curriculum. A truth of environmental science is that there can be no “environmental science” without the science, including a firm grounding in computer science, biology, chemistry, mathematics, botany ... and the list continues.

At the end of the fall semester in December, the Unity College Student Conference 2008 showcased student art and science projects.

“The purpose of the conference is to recognize quality in Unity College student work, and to celebrate excellence,” explained John Zavodny, associate professor and chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services.

Talented, young faculty have

brought a fresh perspective to the community and infused it with new possibilities. Often professors collaborate with each other and praise the work of their colleagues.

“I think the work of (Assistant Professor) Kevin Spigel on lake sediment and its relation to abrupt climate change is by far the most interesting thing anyone is doing,” said Associate Professor Mick Womersley. “The fact that we could attract such a talented faculty member speaks well for the College’s changes over recent years. Having Kevin around will do wonders for students as they seek to gain admittance into graduate school. But Kevin is just one of a half-dozen very talented, new, young science professors at Unity College.”

During the student conference in December, it was easy for visitors to become engrossed in the enormous range of projects pursued, some involving the arts, which are also an important part of the curriculum. At the end of the conference, winners were announced and cash prizes awarded.



“It is so important to expose newer students to a comfortably competitive atmosphere so that they can see how their work aligns with that of their peers,” said John Zavodny (above, left), Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services.

Award Winners

Creativity

Hazel Trinidad '09
A Semester's Work in Clay

Academic Excellence

Jacob Urrutia '11
Are Red-backed Salamanders Territorial?

Unity Award

Jake Deslauriers '10, Andy Gagnon '11,
Alex Kendall '12, Jenny Lane '11,
Nate Miller '10, Nate Taylor '11,
Josh Youse '09
Leave No Trace Master Educators

Sustainability

Adam Douin '11
Modeling Viability of Wind Power in
Waldo County, A GIS Approach

Education

Kristen Cowan '10, Brian Thiebault '10
Species Aggregation of Tsuga
Canadensis and Abies balsamea

Conservation

Christopher Poulin '09
The What's Where of Badger Hair

Special Award in Partnership with Unity Foundation and Unitel

The first ever Unity Partnership Award was presented to Kelly Safford '09, an Environmental Education major from Greene, Maine, and Patrick O'Roark '10, a Wildlife Care and Education major from South Hadley, Massachusetts, for their documentary about the Camp Susan Curtis mentoring program involving students from Unity College and MSAD # 3. A \$250 cash prize was presented to Safford and O'Roark by Unity College Vice President for College Advancement Robert Constantine, Lori Roming of the Unity Foundation, and Jim Carlson, Chief Operating Officer/ Vice President at Unitel.

Roming and Carlson praised the documentary and the mentoring project it documented.



UCCPA Hub for Regional Arts Scene

In the brief time since the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts was gifted to Unity College by the Clifford Family Foundation in 2007, since transforming into the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts (UCCPA), it has become an important part of the College and focal point for the arts in the greater Waldo County region. The Lapping Lecture Series, academic meetings, dance performances, student conferences, community events, college meetings and events such as The Art of Stewardship, art exhibitions, free weekly film series showing films such as Academy Award winner *Man on a Wire*, the Inauguration of President Mitchell Thomashow, and exceptional concerts all take place at the UCCPA.

A vibrant mix of local, regional, national, and international musical talent covering a variety of genres form the essence of the broad-based UCCPA appeal. During 2008–2009, performers with special appeal to the younger crowd took to the stage.

Acts included Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, The Brew, Strangefolk, and Railroad Earth. The over fifty crowd was attracted to performances by talent such as Frank Vignola, Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade, and Carlene Carter. Broad-based appeal spanning the generational divide was achieved with performances by Watermelon Slim, Sometimes Why, The Waybacks, Al and the Transamericans, Red Molly, and bluesman Guy Davis, in addition to performances by other talented musical artists. Fans of international music enjoyed performances by Liadan of Ireland and Kinobe and the Soul Beat Africa from Uganda. Diversity of appeal is all part of the UCCPA experience. A full listing of past concerts is online at www.unityme.org/theater/archive2008.htm.



Photos: (top, left to right) Strangefolk, Frank Vignola, The Waybacks, Guy Davis, Kinobe and The Soul Beat Africa, Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade, Al and the Transamericans, The Brew, Strangefolk, crowd shows appreciation, Dog Wants Out, and Carlene Carter.

Kristie Smith '12 Sees Challenge as Important Part of Education

At each turn, challenge presents itself to college students. Challenges abound in Mick Womersley’s Unity IDEal Leadership class. First year student Kristie Smith sees the leadership class as a perfect combination of challenge and inspiration.

The IDEal class helps students discover leadership talents while exposing them to effective communication, conflict resolution, decision making, and organizational building. As part of her curriculum for environmental education combined with teacher certification, Smith says the IDEal Leadership class has presented her with many opportunities to expand her horizons. “I’ve always been an independent person and like to complete things on my own. Many of my classes, especially this one, require group work, which I find challenging.”

Smith chose Unity for its environmental focus, hands-on learning, and intimate community. She chose the IDEal class because she wanted to develop her leadership skills. “We have learned to accommodate everyone’s needs while ensuring an optimal outcome,” Smith said. “I have learned more in this course than I ever expected.”

Lucas Benner '10 Turns Passion for Science Into Real World Solutions

Lucas Benner looks to the dirt for answers concerning questions about our Earth’s history. As a junior studying environmental science and geology, Benner has benefited from the hands-on approach to teaching practiced at Unity. He has worked closely with Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel on a wide variety of projects. Two of these projects include digging pits for experiments in the campus woodlot and drilling through seventeen inches of ice to analyze the sediment at the bottom of Unity Pond. Such hands-on learning has allowed Benner to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Opportunities like these have shaped Lucas’s understanding of our planet. Virtually each day, Benner has made new discoveries and con-

nections. He learned that sometimes big concepts are illuminated in small, frequently simple ways, such as learning the importance of studying mud to determine an area’s climate trends over time.

Benner credits his field work examining soils and sedimentation with sparking a growing interest in geology.

“Spigel’s classes have given me insight, understanding, and a direction to follow that will no doubt lead me to a fulfilling scientific career,” Benner said. “Without his classes and guidance I don’t believe my career aspirations would be as well defined.” Finding his passion and doing hands-on, meaningful work has allowed Benner to maximize his academic capabilities.



Enrollment Management in a Tight Economy

Enrollment Management Keeps Unity Positioned for Success Despite Challenges of Economic Downturn



The economic downturn of 2008 that has continued to the present has affected many, none more so than families with college aged students. An examination of the higher education marketplace during the best of times presents a dizzying array of options and complexities for prospective students and their parents. This economic downturn has sent all concerned scrambling for high ground to survey the landscape and gain insight into what is on the horizon.

A fundamental approach to weathering the economic downturn for Unity's enrollment management and financial aid is to sharpen the focus, messages, and improve efficiencies.

A consistent message offered by those charged with overseeing admissions and financial aid proves caution is warranted, but that Unity has key strengths and attributes to help it weather challenging times.

In 2008, with the hiring of **Alisa Johnson (right)** as the first dean for enrollment management, Unity College continued taking steps to achieve a broader national profile. For several years prior to the arrival of Johnson, the Admissions Office had been changing, incorporating new majors such as Sustainable Design and Technology and Marine Biology into the mix, along with

reviewing its approaches to marketing and recruitment.

The geographic base from which the majority of Unity students come is evolving. Johnson says Unity's prime recruitment territory was New England, and while that is still true, strides have been made in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Washington, and Oregon. At first blush the latter two seem to be a surprise, but Johnson points to the similarities between those states and Maine in environmental values and even climate.

In good or bad economic times, Johnson feels that small colleges must ensure accuracy in marketing to support healthy retention. The cost of bringing students to campus only to have them leave before graduation is a steep one for small colleges.



FINDING THE RIGHT FIT



Seattle, Washington native **Olivia Hanson '11 (left)**, a Captive Wildlife Care and Education major, found Unity using US News listings while searching for small environmental colleges that were not located in a city setting.

“Once I applied to Unity and some other schools I received some publications and thought that the overall appearance of Unity’s materials

was more appealing,” said Hanson. “My campus visit is what really sealed the deal for me. The people I met seemed genuinely interested in me as a student and, more importantly, were genuinely passionate about the College.”

The bottom line for Hanson was that Unity was honest, unpretentious and warm.

“It was the honesty and sense of connectivity that led me to choose Unity,” Hanson said. “It’s not something you can fake, or achieve by paying the right people, it’s real.”

Hanson has flourished at Unity College both in and out of the classroom. She put her talent for photography to good use as a work-study student in the communications office, taking photos for use on the web, in the college magazine, and in marketing pieces. She is also a student editor for the college magazine.



Maine’s only two colleges to be listed in the guidebook were Unity College and the University of Maine at Farmington.

The web and e-recruiting are two areas that are being reviewed by Admissions at Unity, which communicates with prospective students in a variety of ways including through blogs on the Admissions web site.

ENSURING WISE USE OF RESOURCES

Among the goals, Admissions at present through Johnson’s leadership is to be increasingly strategic about the use of its resources. It will evaluate marketing dollars spent and return on investment; wisely use financial aid resources and scholarship awards to consistently improve the overall academic quality of each incoming class; find students who are a good fit; sharpen marketing messages used, identify target audiences, and geographic focus of recruitment efforts.

Among the web-based recruitment approaches is a busy and informative Admissions part of the College web site with links to every other part of the College. There is a blog on the Admissions web site called *True View: Unity Students Tell It Like It Is*, that gives students “the inside scoop on everything from course loads and class dynamics to campus life and beyond.” The blog is online at www.unity.edu/Admissions/Visiting/TrueView.aspx.

The Unity work-study students who regularly interact with potential students on the blog are Jamie Nemecek '09, a Sustainable Design and Technology major from Brookline, New Hampshire; Shilo Cushman '10, a Captive Wildlife Care and Education major from Albion, Maine; and William Knight '11, a Conservation Law Enforcement and Wildlife major from Waterboro, Maine.

Often Nemecek, Cushman, and Knight share their reasons for choosing Unity College with prospective students. A consistent approach of Admissions in good economy and bad is to give prospective students accurate information so that they are choosing Unity for the right reasons, and therefore will be more likely to flourish, and one day graduate.

“When I first found Unity, I was attracted by their environmental message and how each major was related to an aspect

CashCourse: New Online Financial Aid Resource

During the fall 2008 semester, students at Unity College are getting a leg up on a strong financial future. The College is working with CashCourse, an online resource from the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE), helping Unity students to be proactive when it comes to their financial education.

Unity College was among the first to offer CashCourse, an unbiased and noncommercial financial education solution for students. Since the CashCourse pilot launch in fall 2007, 146 schools across the country have signed up to use the program.

From the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year, new and returning students faced immediate challenges and choices concerning their finances.

Living away from the guidance of their parents during college is often a time when many students make unwise financial decisions due to lack of knowledge.

“CashCourse offers a reliable resource to help young adults develop financial know-how,” said Ted Beck, president and CEO of the Colorado-based National Endowment for Financial Education. “Through attention to the needs of today’s

college students, this program will help young adults gain the financial savvy necessary for the real world.”

CashCourse offers unbiased content with no advertising and no connections to commercial entities.

Unity College students access the site from the college’s financial aid website.

“Providing 24/7 access to financial assistance will be an indispensable tool,” said Dean for Enrollment Management Alisa Johnson. “CashCourse has great potential to effect positive change in how our students think about and manage their finances.”

STAYING ONE STEP AHEAD

Diversification is also important to ensure that Unity flourishes in an economic downturn.

The Marine Biology major that preceded Johnson’s arrival proved to be highly appealing to females and therefore played a strong role in helping to create near equal gender parity for the first time in the history of the College.

Johnson has had an immediate impact in increasing Unity’s academic profile. During the fall 2008 semester, Unity attained a first ever listing in *The Colleges of Distinction* guidebook produced by Student Horizons.



of environmental concern,” said Nemecek. “When I discovered that they had started a new program called Sustainable Design and Technology, I was amazed at how perfect this program related to my academic goals. It was hard for me to imagine finding another school with a better message and degree program.”

“What lead me to choose Unity was the commitment of each professor to the environment,” Nemecek continued.

“All the degree programs here are related to the environment. Although they may be teaching a course about statistics, for instance, the professor will still find a way to involve some aspect of the environment or express their personal love of nature.”

“I recommend Unity to anyone (considering college) who



Director of Admissions Kay Fiedler (center) and her staff.

is interested in the environment,” Nemecek said. “It is important that students who choose to come here have an inherent love of nature, and are ready to dedicate their life to mitigating and solving environmental problems. The students here will one day be on the forefront of a new wave of concern about environmental problems, and Unity is the place to gain a well-rounded education that is focused on the environment.”

Completing the picture for Nemecek is “the amount of experiential learning offered through many avenues. Unity is not only hands-on in the classroom, but it offers many opportunities for students to get involved in the community and learn through real-world experiences.”



The Allison M. Hall Welcome Center, home of the Admissions Office.

AN OPTIMISTIC FUTURE

Another piece to the enrollment management puzzle in any economy is Financial Aid. In good times and bad, Director of Financial Aid, **Rand Newell (left)** helps families through what can be a challenging process.



He acknowledges that there are challenges, but has found plenty of reason for optimism concerning Unity's future.

Newell feels that the College is making strides to improve the number of students with strong financial capacity, which in turn frees up more

resources to assist talented, capable, and accomplished potential students who are in need of financial assistance.

"We're well on our way to improving the pool of students with financial capacity," Newell said, citing ever improving marketing efforts and national exposure received by the College as two positive factors.

In terms of the overall economy and its impact on higher education, Newell feels recovery will take time.

"I think it's going to be a little while until all things play out in this economy," Newell said. "We do know that in these kinds of trying times, more students go to college, or try to. So that is a plus with more students that we can draw from."

"We are unique in that we're such a niche school, and we're such a small school, so we can take some actions to get that extra 10 percent or 15 percent," Newell added. "A great opportunity will also be the fact that more students from Maine will be staying in the state to attend college, and we don't need that many more to make a difference in our situation. Plus, we might attract more students that might have attended a more expensive institution before the economic downturn."

Unity's tuition is close to that which is paid by an out of state student to attend the University of Maine.

While the time frame for the economic recovery is difficult to predict, the enrollment management system in place at Unity College is poised with the flexibility, efficiency, and responsiveness necessary to provide appropriate adaptability going forward. Dean Johnson and her Admissions team are also identifying markets that seem receptive to Unity's message and mission.

Emphasis on the ARTS

Few individuals outside the Unity College orbit would list a connection to the arts as high on its list of key attributes, but increasingly the old notions about the place of the arts at the College are changing, and with good reason.

By Mark Tardif



From a recent well received student gallery show at Waterfall Arts in Belfast, Maine, to full-time and adjunct faculty with significant reputations teaching at Unity, the news about the arts at Unity is that they are varied, vibrant, and often surprising to the uninitiated.

Ben Potter, an associate professor and curator of the Leonard R. Craig Art Gallery, has brought dynamic shows to the gallery in recent years. He has connected the College with Maine's art community and exposed his students to a world of possibilities.

The connection between art and sustainability took center stage during the fall 2008 semester when Unity partnered with the K2 Family Foundation. Over several days, artists from across the United States visited the College to explore the connections between sustainability and art.

The Art of Stewardship Project is ongoing and in broad sweeps aims to use the entire campus as a canvas, exploring the connections between art and sustainability in new, surprising ways.



Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine said that the K2 Family Foundation partnership will also help transform the Unity College campus into a regional and national venue for environmental art.

"In coordination with the Unity College master plan and vision of sustainability, the campus will be used as a canvas," noted Constantine. "Emerging from this process will be a substantive programmatic vision for integrating sustainability, the arts, and education. There will also be emphasis on creating regional, national, and international networks for promoting ecological awareness and the creative arts."

Constantine noted that the K2 Family Foundation partnership will enable Unity College to reach its aspiration to create a campus vision derived from sustainability principles, ecological landscaping, and the creative arts. He added that this vision, informed and inspired by The Art of Stewardship Project, will specifically allow the College to create art-based programs, forums, gatherings, installations, exhibits, and experiments all tied to sustainability.

The K2 Family Foundation is an operating foundation founded in 2006 by Margot and Robert Kelley. The Foundation independently or in partnership directs programs that strive through art, education, or action to promote more creative and sustainable ways of living.

Associate Professor Ben Potter has the unique challenge of teaching art to students with vastly different backgrounds.

His approach is to help students broaden their conceptions of what they consider art, and what they are capable of achieving.



"I want students to be able to marry technical skills and conceptual thinking, expressing evocative ideas that are well executed in whatever medium," Potter said.

Each individual is challenged no matter what his or her artistic background might be. Students in Potter's classes soon discover that art is as much about thinking as it is about the execution of a concept using brushes or pencils.



"I want students to think 'Why am I making a piece of art about this, rather than just writing a paragraph?'," noted Potter. "My students should ask themselves 'What does art have to do with the non-verbal transmission of ideas, why is that of great value, and how can I deploy that way of perceiving and communicating?'"

Potter believes that a good way of engaging students at the outset of a course requires "giving them discreet tasks that they can see."

Taking a course from Potter is like learning the piano by initially sitting down and beginning to explore the keyboard with a simple set of guidelines. The act of creation involves paths that eventually converge, one path a journey of introspection and discovery, the other of technical proficiency and execution.

THE ART OF STEWARDSHIP

K2 Family Foundation Partners with Unity College, Exploring Sustainability and Art

Unity College has long been focused on sustainability, and now the College has partnered with the K2 Family Foundation of Cambridge, Massachusetts, on a project to explore the connections between sustainability and art.

During the fall semester it was announced that the K2 Family Founda-

tion would partner with Unity College on The Art of Stewardship Project. This project promotes the integration of creative art, ecological awareness, and sustainability. The first phase of the project was a weekend retreat that brought over 50 artists, patrons, and sustainability advocates together for a conversation beginning to discuss the Art of Stewardship and its role at Unity College. Next steps include developing a summer workshop and exploring the campus as a site for public installations. In the broadest sense the entire college campus will become a canvas

to explore and promote the intersection of sustainability and art. "The K2 Family Foundation is pleased to help Unity College to realize its vision of becoming an educational nexus for art and sustainability," said Robert Kelley, trustee for the K2 Family Foundation. "We believe that the program we're helping Unity to design and implement is an ideal vehicle for meeting our commitment to making sustainability concerns more visible through artistic expression and educational programs."



“I might present them with a skeleton and say ‘here it is, draw it,’” Potter said. “It’s a really discreet task that enhances your technical skills if you engage it, but early on I like to give students a taste of the wide open country. For instance, they might make a piece that incorporates elements of repetition. With these more conceptual assignments, students have to create a work of art from scratch. They have to ask themselves: How do I represent it? What meaning do I want to get across with this?’ This runs counter to the old fashioned trajectory of doing a lot of grunt work before you’re allowed to have autonomous exploration of your own concepts.”

“The ideas are just as important as the execution, so how do you impart within a semester the long trajectory of skills to use in the pursuit of artistic creation?” asked Potter. Part of the answer to that is to first meet students where they are, and impress upon them that they are being assessed not against the skills of other students, but by the terms of their personal progress, says Potter.



Serving the needs of students with vastly different levels of skill is a fundamental, daily challenge for Potter, but one which he welcomes.

“The students range from those who have never taken an art class and feel no confidence whatsoever in their own artistic ability, to students who are quite sophisticated,” Potter said. “Some students have looked at a lot of art and have a lot of technical facility. The challenge is how do you teach them all within the same class.”

“I try to structure things so that students at all levels of proficiency are being challenged, or pushed, to expand their notions of what art is and how to make it,” he added. “I stress to my students that they are not being measured against their peers in terms of who is the most artistically accomplished in the class, and who is the least. The great value and benchmark is where you start, and where you end up in your course of study. That’s how I judge them. I put the responsibility on them as well.”

Ultimately students come to the realization that art has a role to play in their environmental education and careers.

“I try to structure things so that students at all levels of proficiency are being challenged, or pushed, to expand their notions of what art is and how to make it.”

Associate Professor Ben Potter

“I want students to understand that art is another way of deploying ideas,” Potter explained. “It’s not writing, or scientific research, it is its own way of exploring the world and also disseminating experience that is unique in a way that music is distinct, and writing is distinct.”

The way in which Potter relates art to the thinking process evokes scientific inquiry.

For instance, it is not such a stretch to imagine a measure of creative re-framing as a necessary skill for scientists working to solve global climate change. Such imaginative cognition in part comes from a grounding in art, Potter suggests. In this way what Potter offers is no less valuable to future environmental leaders than a course in sustainability.

“The predominant culture at Unity College privileges science and hard facts as the basis of the ‘real world,’” said Potter. “I want students to come away with the idea that art is also reality. It’s another aspect of reality.”



Ben Potter Combines Artistic Talent with Teaching



To find an artist with a growing national reputation who can also teach is challenging enough, yet add in youth, a science background, and an aesthetic that considers rural Maine a fantastic place to be, and that task seems overwhelming.

In Associate Professor Ben Potter, Unity found all of these qualities and more.

Growing up in Sewanee, Tennessee, Potter developed diverse skills and a curiosity about the natural world. He also nurtured artistic talents that now place his art in some of the most high profile galleries in the United States.

His diversity of interests led Potter to pursue a double major in art and biology at prestigious Williams College.

He pursued both an art and science conviction. An internship with the New York Zoological Society after college was fulfilling, but the specialization required for a career in science was not for him.

The choice for Potter became whether to pursue a highly specialized graduate degree in a science field or a career in art. Potter chose the latter. He headed to the West Coast and the California College of Arts in Oakland, California, where he was awarded his Master of Fine Arts in 1998.

Potter moved to Burlington, Vermont, where for several years he honed his teaching skill as an adjunct art instructor at multiple colleges, and then moved to Wisconsin to teach full-time at Ripon College for four years.

Unity has been his home for the past three years.



ACADEMIC RENEWAL

Reconfiguring to Better Meet the Needs of a Changing World

When Congress passed the stimulus package of 2009, America's growing green economy took center stage. While the various green initiatives in the stimulus package are still being debated, members of the Unity College community are continuing a similar process of evaluation that began years ago.

From 2006 to the present, Unity's faculty, departments, and administration have been exploring how best to meet the long-term environmental needs of a changing world. Described as "academic renewal," the process is helping the College refine its curriculum by sharpening degree programs to respond to 21st century global environmental problems, respond to promising vocational paths for environmental careers,

and organize itself around a small set of academic centers.

The College is also reviewing its student learning outcomes, along with revisiting what it means for Unity College to be a liberal arts institution.

On February 22, 2008, Unity College Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Knisley and the Unity College Faculty Planning committee jointly charged a taskforce/subcommit-

tee of the Faculty Planning Committee to make recommendations regarding the establishment of smaller academic units at Unity College. By May 1, the subcommittee on smaller academic units had proposed Centers configuration and membership.

The result was a proposal of Unity College Centers for Education, Outreach and Service (Centers), a small set of interrelated and mutually supportive

academic units. The Centers serve Unity College and its community chiefly through the development, delivery, and evaluation of mission appropriate educational programming. The Centers will also provide a venue and vehicle for Unity College academic personnel, students and partners to collaborate, consult, and gather. Each of the Centers encourage collaboration between its membership and membership of the other Centers.

Though the process is still ongoing, much progress has already been made to make a final version of the Centers a reality.

"Centers will provide an opportunity for smaller groups of faculty and academic staff to get together and have rich discussions about their curriculum, programs and students," Knisley explained.



These discussions will inevitably include finding consensus on ways to consistently improve programs, and to adjust what is being done educationally to best serve the needs of current and future students, Knisley says.

As has been witnessed by the entire higher education marketplace in 2008

and 2009, colleges and universities are not immune to economic pressures generated by market forces. Knisley sees the Centers organizational structure and creative collaboration as a means of ensuring that the College address a variety of ongoing academic and economic challenges.

"The Centers will strengthen our ability to respond to the changing realm of environmental higher education, and respond to the environmental problems out there," noted Knisley. "We will have groups of professionals that are oriented around clusters of environmentally related programs or problems. For instance, we have a Center for Sustainability and Global Change. They can keep an eye out and say 'What's going on out there in the realm of sustainability and global





advancing the College towards achieving its aspiration of occupying a place among the very best small environmental colleges in the United States.

Convening Centers during this transitional year are Assistant Professor Aimee Phillippi for Biodiversity; Librarian, Melora Norman, for Environmental Arts and Humanities; Assistant Director for Teacher Education Angela Hardy for Environmental and Experiential Education; Associ-

ate Professor Tom Mullin for Natural Resource Management and Protection; and Professor Doug Fox for Sustainability and Global Change.

Also involved in the planning are Knisley, chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services (DIAS) and Associate Professor John Zavodny, DIAS Vice-Chair Pat Clark, and

climate change?’ In this way they can really help to lead the College (in these subject areas) in curricula and other educational experiences.”

The same principle will apply to all Centers, with educators collaborating with each other and professionals outside the College, seeking partnerships and projects to benefit the College, and

“[Centers] subject designations are seen as more closely aligning with areas of student interest, which will help Unity College communicate its values, principles, and opportunities more clearly to the world.”

Registrar Holly Hein.

Highlights of the process have included campus-wide discussions and student receptions put on by the current iteration of Centers to encourage student participation. The Centers meet twice monthly to discuss a wide variety of topics ranging from scheduling to curricular planning.

“The broad subject designations for centers really optimizes opportunities



for creative cross-fertilization of ideas and new proposals,” said Norman.

“These subject designations are seen as more closely aligning with areas of student interest, which will help Unity College communicate its values, principles, and opportunities more clearly to the world. It will also provide more opportune venues for establishing partnerships and links with both local and global communities engaged in environmental education.”

“Centers provide a springboard for college action and experiential learning design,” she added.

An examination of current faculty and student projects underscores the tremendous potential for centers and overall

academic renewal as a means of infusing Unity College with new possibilities, nurture new strengths, improve academic quality, expand the range of learning and research opportunities, and locate resource development opportunities.

New and veteran faculty are currently involved in varied class projects, fledgling partnerships with external organizations, personal research and student projects that are ready to be plugged into the centers concept.

Zavodny echoes the enthusiasm of the faculty as a whole for the potential that Centers might create to secure extensive opportunities for applied, field-based, and inter-disciplinary learning with ties to addressing real world problems. Also, Centers might improve the opportunities for students to pursue case studies and practical applications for scientific projects, which is directly relevant to their future career and graduate school, Zavodny says.



STUDENT PROJECTS

A sampling of the activities being pursued by students of Assistant Professor Kevin Spiegel demonstrates the dazzling potential for Centers given that every faculty member is also pursuing varied projects:

Twenty students under the guidance of Spiegel working to assess environmental change in the Unity area as part of an Environmental Citizen class. They partnered with Friends of Unity Wetlands to produce the first sedimentologic history from Unity Pond.

Erik Larson '10, an Environmental Analysis major, is assisting Spiegel with an ongoing research project examining landscape responses to rapid climate change events in the upper Midwest.

During the fall 2008 semester, Spiegel's groundwater and surface hydrology class completed a project at the request of the town of China, Maine, to investigate water quality, water flow, and erosion problems with an impounded wetland adjacent to China Lake.

Cayce Salvino '11 is working on a project to simulate wildfire impacts on seedling growth and mortality.

Peter Knipper '09 is designing a flume to study the role of different ground cover types and erosion.

Students in a soil science class taught by Spiegel completed a semester long project on soils on the campus of Unity College.

Community Based Learning Coordinator Jennifer Olin Helps Partnerships Flourish



If the greater Unity area were likened to a family, no two siblings would share a closer bond than the Unity Barn Raisers and Unity College. Both the College and Barn Raisers were founded by members of the area community for specific purposes, the Barn Raisers to provide support in a variety of contexts, and the College initially as an economic engine.

In the summer of 2008, Jennifer Olin began as the Community Based Learning Coordinator at the College. The role is well suited to Olin, who did not have far to move from her previous job, which was at the Unity Barn Raisers (UBR). Olin spent several years at UBR in a job

supported by that organization and Unity College.

She feels her time at UBR gave her valuable insights into the needs of the community. Her knowledge of the community and contacts brought to the College form the basis for reciprocal, collaborative exploration of community oriented partnerships and projects.

Not every organization is a good fit to share a partnership with the College. Accurately assessing the needs of external organizations against the capacities of the College, its professors, along with the desired learning outcomes of classes or individual students, is key to evaluating the potential for any partnership proposal.

Empty Bowls and Hunger Report

A report researched by students at Unity College says that hunger is a growing problem in Waldo County and more community action is needed to help people make ends meet. The report was unveiled November 18 at the 14th annual Empty Bowls dinner at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts.



Empty Bowls participants choose their hand-made bowl before enjoying the meal.

The “Hunger at Home” report was compiled by students as part of an environmental citizen class taught by Nancy Ross, an associate professor of environmental policy. “This comprehensive research project on area hunger provides a real-time snapshot of need within the Waldo County area,” said Jennifer Olin, a community-based learning coordinator at Unity College. The students examined trends in food stamp use at local grocers, food pantry and school nutrition programs; data from the U.S. census, Maine state government and other sources for information on poverty rates and hunger. They also conducted more than 30 interviews with hunger relief program managers



Associate Professor Nancy Ross is joined by Rachel O'Brien '11 and Gavin Cummings '11 at the Empty Bowls dinner.

and volunteers, community leaders and other experts. The report released in November summarizes the major findings of the class; more detailed reports on programs that involve community feeding, schools and food stamps will be released at the end of the college’s semester. Written by Scott Monroe and reprinted courtesy of the *Morning Sentinel*. For the full reports go to www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News.

My Name is Paco

One day I took a long car ride and went to a new house with birds, squirrels, lots and lots of trees, streams, cats and sometimes other dogs. There I live with my masters Mitch and Cindy. I’m not happy whenever either is gone, though especially so with Cindy, since she’s always walking me. Many times I get to ride in the car to a place with lots of people where they kick balls, throw me balls, pat me, I say “hi” without barking ... sometimes there are other dogs, there is a big white house with a bird feeder in front and I like to run up to it, right to the end of my lash, and watch birds fly away. I’m not scared and don’t bark. I do like to talk, especially when someone new visits, or when I see someone I haven’t seen in a long time. I’ll give you my paws if you let me. My new home has a big yard with puddles that I like to drink from sometimes; that muddy taste is great. There is a place to watch the animals outside, lay in the sun, and it is warm, warm, and warm. Lots of people visit and I like to see them. They’re



really nice and sometimes, I take my ball or a bone from the place near the kitchen on the floor where Cindy and Mitch put them, and show them to the visitors. My name is Paco and I’m usually with Cindy. Pat me and I’ll remember you, I promise.

Unity House Earns LEED Platinum and Nationwide Attention

Since the beginning of its construction during the summer of 2008, Unity House has attracted significant regional and national media attention. It has also attracted the attention of industry specific publications like the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *University Business* magazine. A blog about Unity House by President Mitchell Thomashow and his wife Cindy, also a lifelong environmental educator, is being offered at a link on

the University Business web site. Tedd Benson, owner of Bensonwood Builders of New Hampshire and primary builder of Unity House, offered an entry on his blog about the significance of Unity House attaining Platinum LEED Certification status. The entry is available online at www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News/UnityHouseLEEDPlatinum.aspx. During a special alumni weekend tour of Unity House on Saturday, September

26, President Mitchell Thomashow was joined by Maine’s 1st District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree. The then campaigning congresswoman visited Unity House to learn firsthand of its energy saving features. Now on the job in her new role as a Congresswoman weighing in on national energy policy, Pingree promises to draw from the significant resources available at Unity College.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENSONWOOD BUILDERS



Right, President Mitchell Thomashow was joined by Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree for a special alumni weekend tour of Unity House, above.

SPOTLIGHT ON ATHLETICS



Women’s Athletics Shines

During the fall 2008 semester, Unity College women’s soccer team goal keeper **DEIRDRE “DJ” OUSTERHOUT ’11**, was named Yankee Small College Conference Player of the Year and a United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) All-American. Kristy Manuell ’12, Ousterhout and Sara Woodman ’09 were named to the YSCC All-Conference team. The women’s soccer team finished 2nd in the YSCC during the regular season. “DJ always has a game changing performance and has the talent to play on higher level teams,” said women’s soccer Coach Jeremy Von Oesen.

Unity All-Americans

Prior to a women’s volleyball team practice in preparation for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) national tournament in Fort Wayne, Indiana in October 2008, women’s volleyball player **ANGELA JACKSON ’10** was interviewed by Bangor-based WVII-TV ABC 7 news reporter Aaron Jackson. Jackson was named a USCAA All-American and Yankee Small College Conference Player of the Year. The women’s volleyball team completed an outstanding year with a trip to the USCAA national tournament, where they were eliminated in straight games. The team finished 9th in the USCAA. Earning academic All-American status were Kelly Safford ’10, Lauren Ferguson ’09 and Angela Jackson. Becky Cunfer ’10 earned All-American Honorable Mention.

Woodsmen Team Achieve, Bridge Gender Divide

During a Family & Friends Weekend competition at Unity College on September 26, **JACKIE ROUX ’11** took aim in the axe throw competition. The Woodsmen’s Team competes during the fall and spring semesters. They had spring meets on February 14 in Nova Scotia, March 21 at the University of Maine (Orono), April 4 at Colby College, and will have a meet April 24-25 at Dartmouth. The Woodsmen’s Team has been both active and successful. This co-ed collegiate sport features men and women training, competing, and cheering for each other. Nowhere in the Unity culture is the idea of selfless support for teammates across the gender divide more evident than on the Woodmen’s Team.

Dean’s Cup

Innovative Program at Unity College Wins Two Awards



An innovative program at Unity College has been recognized as among the very best in Maine, winning both the Maine Association of Student Affairs Practitioners and NASPA Program of the Year Awards.

The Dean’s Cup program, a comprehensive community-building approach created by the Office of Student Affairs at Unity College, is being hailed as a “what’s next” template for re-framing residential life at Maine institutions of higher education and beyond.

Created by Dean for Student Affairs Gary Zane and Director of Residence Life/ Assistant Director for Student Affairs Stephen Nason, the Dean’s Cup program rallies the entire college community around a series of events that take place throughout the academic year.

“The Dean’s Cup is a comprehensive student affairs approach to fostering a focused, supportive, engaged and positive campus community throughout the year,” noted Nason. “This program ensures that no student is able to fall through the cracks and be unconnected to our campus community, which is one of the biggest contributing factors to students leaving before they have earned their degree.”

“This program ensures that no student is able to fall through the cracks and be unconnected to our campus community.”

Volunteers Winterize Neighbors' Homes

Unity students among those making a difference



PHOTO BY SHARON KILEY MACK, COURTESY OF THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Greg Winston of Troy, a Husson University (a partner of Unity College) teacher, installs glass in storm doors for former Unity staff member Dot Quimby. Winston was one of dozens of volunteers who winterized 10 area homes on national Make A Difference Day. The team of volunteers also installed insulation and foam protectors on exposed pipes.

More than 40 volunteers, many of them Unity College students, fanned out into Greater Unity on Saturday (October 25, 2008) to help their neighbors winterize their homes.

Dot Quimby, an octogenarian who lives alone, watched as one team put foam insulation on pipes in her cellar, someone installed the glass panels in her storm door, an unused chimney was sealed and insulated, and caulking was used to stop air leaks around her windows and doors.

Greg Winston of Troy, a Husson University teacher, installs glass in storm doors for Dot Quimby of Unity. Winston was one of dozens of volunteers who winterized 10 homes in the area Saturday, national Make A Difference

Day. Winston's team also installed insulation and foam protectors on exposed pipes. "How can I ever say thank you?" Quimby wondered as she watched them work. "This is so wonderful. I've lived here 53 years, and I didn't even know that these little fixes could make such a difference."

"How can I ever say thank you? This is so wonderful. I've lived here 53 years, and I didn't even know that these little fixes could make such a difference."

Unity resident Dot Quimby

Peter Abello, one of the winterization team members and a Unity College alumnus, said the program is invaluable. "Look at our lives here," he said. "In the winter in Maine, as we sit in our own houses, nice and warm, it is hard to think of others being cold."

The event was sponsored by the Unity Barn Raisers as part of an even wider long-term program, Energizing Our Community.

Tess Woods '95, executive director of Unity Barn Raisers, said that coordinating the winterization program has been eye-opening.

"We know there are people living paycheck to paycheck in our community, but much of what we found [for repairs] were easy fixes," she said. "There are small repairs and winterizations that make a huge difference in energy consumption."

Read the whole story online at www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News.

Written by Sharon Kiley and reprinted courtesy of the *Bangor Daily News*.

Unity College Sponsors Voter Parade

In a celebration of democracy begun during the Presidential election of 2004, Unity College hosted a voter parade from campus to the Unity Community Center on Election Day, November 4. The non-partisan voter parade was an electoral rallying point for the greater Unity community.

The voter parade was organized at 10 a.m. outside the Student Center. Members of the Unity Experience class and Constructive Activist Club oversaw sign making activities. Participants were encouraged to make signs at that time, though signs brought were welcome.

Individuals or groups representing positive political perspectives were welcome to create signs for the parade. Members of the general public joined Unity College students, faculty and staff for the voter parade sign making and march from the campus on Quaker Hill Road to the Unity Community Center, 32 School Street in Unity. President Mitchell Thomashow led the march.



College Participates in Global Warming Teach-In

On February 5, Unity College faculty, staff and students participated in a teach-in on global warming and energy policy in the Student Activities Center. Sponsored by the Unity College Sustainability Office, the program took place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and featured speakers, discussions, films and a link to the national webcast for

the day entitled "Solutions for the First 100 Days." Speakers included Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel who spoke about rapid climate change and methane; Associate Professor Mick Womersley, who addressed the topic of peak oil; Unity College Catering Chef/Student Center Manager Charlie Krause spoke about the responsibility to live a sustainable

lifestyle and make responsible choices; and Unity College Interim Sustainability Coordinator Aaron Witham, who discussed Unity College's involvement in the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. Enjoying a movie about climate change and energy policy were (left to right) Annica McGuirk '11, Kayla Bubar '11, and Cody Floyd '11. Floyd helped to organize the events of the day at Unity College. "The information offered today is very valuable," Floyd said. "It is astounding the consumption that occurs in America. There are so many positive things people can do to address global warming and be more sustainable in their lives, from recycling to supporting their local farmer's market. Changes in behavior usually happen before there are changes in public policy."



Unity Hosts Maine's Largest Environmental Career Fair

Environmental career employers from across the United States connected with job seekers at the Unity College Environmental Career Fair 2009 on Wednesday, February 11 in the gymnasium.

The environmental career recruitment event was open to the general public, though focused on recruitment of recent or anticipated college graduates from across New England. Sponsored by the Unity College Career Resource Center, the event was the largest of its kind ever hosted by Unity College and included 85 participating organizations.

Career Consultant/Career Coordinator Nicole Collins '00 stressed that the career fair serves as a clearing house for college students and career changers seeking internships to find opportunities or full-fill academic requirements.

"Unity College students typically build their careers during their college years through hands-on internships and study abroad opportunities," Collins said. "Unity students have pursued internships in more than 40 of the continental United States and 22 foreign countries."



Jay Perez '05, a Refuge Officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Milbridge, Maine, and Amanda Hardaswick '07, a Refuge Officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland, offered their insights to Mackenzie Kelsey '12 during the environmental career fair.

Maine Senator Susan Collins Announced as Commencement Speaker

In recent years, Maine Senator Susan Collins became one of the most important Republicans in the United States Congress. Her centrist independence and willingness to transcend the partisan divide has distinguished her as a leading voice in the Senate. In 2008, Collins earned a perfect 100 percent score from the League of Conservation voters.

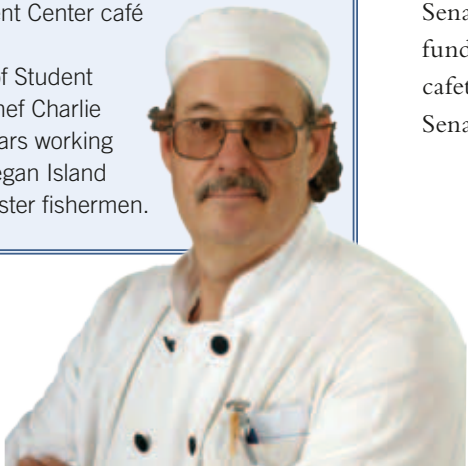
Collins has listed Maine's legendary U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995) as a role model. When Unity obtained the array of solar panels formerly atop the White House during the administration of President Jimmy Carter, Senator Chase Smith was among the individuals who donated funds to refurbish the panels before their installation atop the cafeteria. A solar panel atop the cafeteria bears the name of Senator Chase Smith in thanks.



Supporting Maine's Lobster Industry

During the fall 2008 semester, Unity College launched an effort to do its part to help Maine's struggling lobster industry. Dining services purchased 400 pounds of lobster to serve in the Student Center café and cafeteria.

The effort was the idea of Student Center Manager/Catering Chef Charlie Krause, who spent many years working as a chef on Maine's Monhegan Island and has friends who are lobster fishermen.



NEW TO UNITY FULL-TIME FACULTY



Assistant Professor **ERIKA LATTY** focuses in the area of botany. She earned her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University, and her B.A. in Biology from Harvard University. She comes to Unity College from a position as Assistant Professor in Biology, and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program, at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. During the search process Latty noted that her personal and professional commitment to sustainability was among her reasons for seeking a position with the College.



Assistant Professor **KEVIN SPIGEL** is a new faculty member with an environmental geosciences focus. Spiegel earned his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Buffalo in the State University of New York system. He previously was an Assistant Professor in Earth and Environmental Sciences at Mercer University in Georgia.



SARAH CUNNINGHAM is a visiting Assistant Professor of Captive Wildlife Care and Education. In addition to her B.S. in Biology from Brown University and Ph.D. in Integrative Biology (animal behavior focus) from the University of California at Berkeley, Cunningham brings several years of experience as an animal keeper in carnivores at the San Francisco Zoo. Her work at the San Francisco Zoo included working with primates, herptiles, hoofstock, and birds. Her doctoral research involved extensive fieldwork with the dusky-footed woodrat, and her college teaching includes Introductory Biology and Animal Health.



Assistant Professor **BETH ARNOLD** was hired as a regular faculty member in the area of Adventure Education Leadership. She had previously taught on an interim basis but was chosen after a national search.

FULL-TIME STAFF



Over the summer of 2008, **ALISA JOHNSON** began serving as Dean for Enrollment Management, overseeing Admissions and Financial Aid. The Dean for Enrollment Management is a new position. She is a veteran employee of Unity College, having

served in several positions including Admissions Counselor, Assistant Dean of the College, Interim Director of Teacher Education, and Special Assistant to the President. Among her major projects included serving as Chair of the Budget Committee and writing the Staff Governance document. She holds an M.S. in Enrollment Management from Capella University, an MAT in Secondary Education from the University of Maine; and a B.S. in Biology from Wheaton College.

DIANE LALIBERTE began as an employee in January of 2008, serving as an Assistant Director of Admissions. She holds a B.S. in Organizational Management from Daniel Webster College. She has held various posi-



tions within the New Hampshire Community College System, including Admissions Recruiter, Alumni Director, Adjunct Faculty member and Project Manager. Her varied experience includes serving as an Account Manager and Office Manager.

FULL-TIME STAFF

During the fall 2008 semester **JENNIFER OLIN** became a full-time Unity College employee as Coordinator of Community-Based Learning. Though she has been working with Unity College for several years as an employee of the Unity Barn Raisers (UBR), she crossed town and ascended Quaker Hill to continue the work she began with UBR in the newly created Coordinator of Community-Based Learning position. The Unity Barn Raisers is a longstanding, close partner of the College. Olin holds an M.S. in International and Intercultural Management from the School for International Training in Vermont, with a concentration in Sustainable Development; and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of New Hampshire.

REETA BENEDICT returns to Unity College after spending a year away living and working in Vermont. Benedict returns to the Advancement Department where she had previously worked. She holds the newly created position of Advancement Data Entry

and Office Assistant. Along with her duties in the Advancement Department, Benedict is also assisting the business office with data entry, and coordinating mail and phone responsibilities for the campus. She holds a B.S. in Business Management from Western Connecticut State University.

JUANITA SPAULDING serves as the Secretary/Receptionist to the President's Office. Spaulding comes to Unity College from Nokomis High School, where she held several different positions including registrar, secretary, and receptionist to the guidance office. She also worked for the Superintendent's office. Spaulding attended the University of Maine and studied Early Childhood Education.

CAROL PALMER is serving as Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. A native of Pennsylvania, she has varied experiences in office administration. She studied physical education at Pennsylvania State University.



RYAN HOWES '04 served as the Men's Soccer Coach during the 2008 season. He holds a B.S. in Adventure Education Leadership and Adventure Therapy and has an M.S. in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University. In late February, he became an Experiential Programs Assistant for the Career Resource Center, Community Based Learning Office and Outdoor Adventure Center. He had been serving as Interim Experiential Programs Assistant since the fall 2008 semester.

Students Investigate Energy Plans of Presidential Candidates

The hotly contested presidential election with its record voter turnout proved that college students could be deeply engaged with political issues.

One Unity College class project proved particularly popular and directly related to the presidential election.

A natural resource policy class project by Associate Professor Nancy Ross required students to research the energy policy proposals of Republican presidential nominee John McCain and his Democratic party rival Barack Obama. Once the extensive research was completed, students created an eye catching and informative series of posters that were displayed in the activities building. The posters illustrated the energy policy differences that existed between the two major party candidates.

Students gave the project very high marks. Before the project, Heidi Kowalski '09 did not consider herself to be well informed about politics and the policy proposals of politicians.

Kowalski's research took several months and included a significant amount of information. The research gathered by Kowalski and her classmates was organized onto the posters for display.

"I don't think (the posters) changed anybody's vote, but I did hear one of the students say to his buddy, 'You're going to vote, aren't you?'" Ross said. "I think it did inspire some people to at least chastise a friend to go out and vote."

Tardif Gains Exposure for College

A poem entitled *The Native* by Associate Director of College Communications Mark Tardif was published in the 2008 edition of Maine-based *Harbor Journal*, Volume II, a literary sampler from over 50 Maine writers and artists. During the fall 2008 semester comments by Tardif were featured in a *USA Today* article. He also appeared as a guest on the Rabbi Shmuley Boteach's Chicago, Illinois based XM satellite radio show. In February, Tardif was profiled on CareerApple.com. He offered insights about the skills needed for success in the public relations field.

Students Attend Conferences
Unity's Presence Seen on National Stage

No college or university may realistically aspire to occupy a place upon the national stage in any context without being seriously engaged in significant issues. Participating in key events is an important way to become involved.

In recent years Unity College has become increasingly engaged with national affairs, with members of the college community attending regional, national and even international events often focused on environmental affairs.

In December of 2008, Associate Professor Mick Womersley and five Unity students attended the 9th annual National Council for Science and the Environment conference in Washington, D.C. Students who attended this conference were Kelly Barber '12, Kaylee Sullenger '11, Rachel Mestas '09, Heidi Kowalski '09 and Peter Knipper '09.

In February, President Mitchell Thomashow led a group of students to the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) meeting at the University of Texas at Austin. Students attending were Kayla Bubar '11, Rachel Mestas '09, and Jessica Todd-Brown '09. Information about CGIU is online at www.clintonglobalinitiative.org.

Also in February, President Thomashow attended The 22nd Annual Camden Conference, Global Leadership and the U.S. Role in

World Affairs. Unity students who attended were Hannia Candelario '11, Jacob Deslauriers '10, James Harr '09, Lisa Nason and Aaron Witham (staff members), Jamie Nemecek '11, Steven Swartz '10, and Matthew Zane '10.

In March, Interim Sustainability Coordinator and a group of Unity students attended Powershift 2009, the second youth summit to solve the climate crisis, in Washington, D.C. Unity students who attended were Ashley Zook '11, Kaley Sullenger '11, Emily Pike '12, Amy Kennedy '12, Jamie Nemecek '11, Steve Swartz '10, Cody Floyd '11, Gavin Cummings '11, and Thomas Ianello '12. While in Washington, Witham and Unity students met with Congressional leaders, attended rallies and climate change panels on a variety of climate change issues.



Above, Steve Swartz '10, majoring in Sustainability Design and Technology, meets Maine Congressman Mike Michaud. Below, Michaud meets with Unity students attending Powershift 2009 in Washington, D.C.



Colleagues on a Mission Award

Each year The Colleagues on a Mission Award honors the achievements of faculty and staff who have gone "above and beyond" the call of duty in their service to the College. At the outset of the spring semester the recipients of this award were announced during the semester opening convocation. The recipients gathered for a group photo in the President's Suite. They are (left to right) Doug Van Horn, assistant professor; Sandy Donahue, director of dining services; Mitchell Thomashow, president; and Cheryl Crowell, accountant. Not in the photo was Julie Johnson, clinical counselor.



Unity Named to Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service

In February, Unity College was named to the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service. The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Unity College with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

"Unity College believes that community service is the foundation of environmental learning," said President Mitchell Thomashow. "It is also a core value of the College community."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Brian Morway '10 prepared food during the 3rd Sportsmen's Conference and Wild Game Dinner at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts. Proceeds were used to purchase an all-terrain wheelchair for the National Wild Turkey Federation, Maine Chapter.



Mick Womersley Focuses on Wind Power

Members of the Unity College community no doubt recall the impressive cover of the Spring 2007 edition of *Unity* magazine, showing Associate Professor Mick Womersley silhouetted against a blue sky, ascending a 100-foot wind tower on Knox Ridge just a few miles from campus. The ascent was by no means unusual for Womersley, whose hands-on activities frequently uphold his status as alumnus of the elite Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Team (the U.K. cross between the Army Rangers and Navy Seals).



On the occasion of the cover shot, Womersley was installing a wind gauge. That gauge provided

MSAD 3 with data on whether the conditions were right for installing a wind tower to power a planned new Mt. View High School nearby. In February, Womersley once again focused positive attention on both the College and a transformative wind power project with articles about the possible use of wind to power Peaks Island in Casco Bay, one of Maine's most widely recognized natural treasures.

Partnership Leads to Community Market

Just over one year ago, Waterville Main Street, an organization focused on cultural and commercial vitality in downtown Waterville, initiated plans to open Barrels Community Market, a local foods market and community education space.

"Each year we conduct a survey to find out what the community thinks about downtown," says Shannon Haines, executive director of Waterville Main Street.

Consumers and business owners alike have conveyed that an in-town grocer is desired.

Haines enlisted David Gulak, an organic grower and entrepreneur, to act as project manager. Gulak began preliminary organizing with volunteers and students; in short order the path lead to Unity College.

This semester, as the Barrels Community Market project continues with Unity College as a partner, key faculty have found opportunities for experiential learning. Dr. Nancy Ross, associate professor of environmental policy and local food system researcher, is incorporating her Ethics, Advocacy, and the Environment class into the advocacy and research process.

In addition to Ross, recent graduate Sara Trunzo '08 acts as Community Market Coordinator to liaise between Unity and Waterville Main Street and help find curricular connections.

Haines agrees that the benefits are mutual. "The integration of Barrels Community Market into Unity's coursework is a tremendous way to leverage the expertise of Unity's faculty and staff while at the same time providing students with a real-life lab and a true connection to community."—Sara Trunzo '08

College Plays Key Role in Regional Sustainability Effort

Unity College Interim Sustainability Coordinator Aaron Witham is taking a leadership role in an unfolding effort to unite the greater Waterville, Maine area into a sustainable region. In January of 2009, the City of Waterville City Council spearheaded the effort with its sustainability committee by creating a variety of sub-committees. In turn, the sub-committees are transforming into an organized collaborative for the region to benefit from sustainable approaches to all aspects of town business. Private businesses are also involved in the effort and may adopt sustainability recommendations.

In January, the committees, area citizens, members of educational concerns like Unity College, along with 60 business and community leaders met for a three day sustainability summit at the Waterville Opera House. Witham played a leadership role in the meetings and now serves on the sustainability committee charged with building organizational capacity and assessment tools, making it into an independent collabora-



The Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition has worked to push model state-wide energy legislation and started a program to help low-income homes become energy efficient.

orative that operates under an over-arching plan for regional sustainability practices.

Meetings are ongoing and Witham says that Unity College students are becoming involved, with the long-term regional

sustainability efforts likely providing ample educational and related opportunities. The effort is online at www.2020visionformaine.proboards.com/



President Thomashow (foreground) teaches a seminar with Associate Professor Kathryn Miles at Unity House. Seated between is Timothy Godaire '12.

Thomashow Keeps Connected to His Teaching Roots

In addition to traveling with Unity College students in February to attend former President Clinton's summit entitled Clinton Global Initiative University in Austin, Texas, President Mitchell Thomashow has continued to teach. During the spring 2009 semester, Thomashow taught a President's Seminar on Environmental Security. The seminar provided introduction to the emerging field of environmental security. During the fall 2008 semester, Thomashow co-taught a seminar with Associate Professor Kate Miles entitled *The Future of Life on Earth*. The seminar was designed out of a deep and abiding concern: climate change and threats to biodiversity are extraordinary and urgent challenges that require the very best thinking. Seminar meetings were held at Unity House.

Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel Presents Results of Unity Pond Study

During the spring semester Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel led students in his Environmental Citizen class to collect lake sediments from Unity Pond (Lake Winnecook) as part of a project being done in conjunction with Friends of



Unity Wetlands. Students braved the elements to recover cores of 4.5 to 5 meters of sediment on each trip. The objective of this work is to

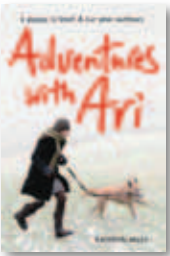
examine environmental changes around Unity Pond. The students examined organic matter content, charcoal, and nitrate levels in the sediments to explore how natural and man made factors have impacted the environment. Students authored a technical report summarizing their work and completed a poster with their coring team to be showcased during the Unity College Student Conference at the end of the spring semester. In February, Spigel offered a presentation at the China Board of Selectmen meeting. The presentation focused on a study by Unity College students of a wetland area near China Lake.

Associate Professor Kathryn Miles Promotes Adventures with Ari



A book by Associate Professor Kathryn Miles entitled *Adventures with Ari, A Puppy, a Leash, and Our Year in the Great Outdoors* was

published and distributed to bookstores across the United States in March by Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. Miles is participating in book signing appearances and media interviews. A reception and book signing was held at Quimby Library on the Unity College campus. A Skyhorse Publishing press release describes *Adventures with Ari* as “a beautifully crafted tale of a blossoming nature lover. It will open your mind to the more simple pleasures in life. An honest attempt to understand the world from a pup’s perspective, this book reveals the ins and outs of dog ownership in a nurturing and optimistic manner.”



Associate Professor Ben Potter Exhibits Art from Maine to Chicago

In January, Associate Professor Ben Potter showed his work and gave a lecture about the creative process at Waterfall Arts in Belfast, Maine. Recently Potter’s works have been exhibited at the Navta Schulz Gallery and the Beverly Art Center in Chicago, at the 2008 Biennial Exhibition at the center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport, Maine, the Courthouse Gallery in Ellsworth, Maine, the June Fitzpatrick gallery in Portland, Maine, and Toshei Village, Taiwan. Potter has also given artist talks at the Maine College of Art in Portland and at Waterfall Arts in Belfast, Maine. He also arranged a show of works by Unity College students at Waterfall Arts entitled *Unity Under the Falls*, thematically dealing with issues of climate change and environmental degradation.



Professor Christopher Beach



As a director of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Beach has been

active in preparing a 13,000 acre federal forest legacy land conservation application focusing on the western mountains region. He is also involving Unity College students in the project. During the fall 2008 semester, Chris Colon ’09 and Jake Deslauriers ’09 completed a High peaks Recreation Study.

Colon produced a High Peaks Recreation Paradise video which is being used to promote the project.

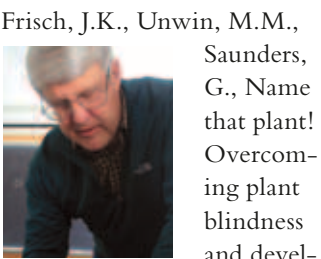
Professor Gerry Saunders

Professor Gerry Saunders has made several presentations and published, or will soon publish, the following papers and book chapters:

Referenced Journal Article: Kreps Frisch, J. & Saunders, G. (2008) Using stories in an introductory biology course. *Journal of Biological Education*, 42, 164-169.

Chapters in Edited Book: Winther, A.A., Sadler, K.,

Saunders, G. Approaches to Environmental Education. In: *Environmental Education in Science Education*. Ed: Al Bodzin. ASTE (publication date: Jan 2010)



Frisch, J.K., Unwin, M.M., Saunders, G., Name that plant! Overcoming plant blindness and developing a sense of place using science and environmental education. In: *Environmental Education in Science Educa-*

tion. Ed: Al Bodzin. ASTE (publication date: Jan 2010)

Poster Presentation: National Conference Parrish, J. Saunders, G. January 2008. Effects of Tiered Instruction on Learning in a Middle School Science Class. Annual Convention: Association for Science Teacher Educators. St. Lois, MO.

State Conference Presentation: October 6, 2008. Adventure in Education, Maine Science Teachers Association Annual Conference. Gardiner, ME with B. Arnold, K. Scantlebury, N. Miller.

Professional Development:

Facilitated Project Learning Tree and Project WET faculty training for regional teachers and Unity pre-service teachers. (fall 2008)



Assistant Professor Beth Arnold

October 6, 2008. Adventure in Educa-

tion, Co-presented at the Maine Science Teachers Association Annual Conference, Gardiner, ME (with Professor Gerry Saunders; see reference above). Served as a workshop reviewer for the Association for Experiential Education (AEE) regional conference 2008 (see also reference for Director of Adventure Experiences Nicole Caruso in New and Noteworthy).

Associate Professor Amy Arnett



As part of a Fulbright Scholarship, Arnett will be teaching four cours-

es (undergraduate and graduate) in the Department of Biology at the University of Maribor, in Maribor, Slovenia, from mid-February 2009 to mid-June. She gave a presentation on April 10th at the University about her research and about Unity College. She will also collaborate with a colleague at the University of Maribor, investigating behavioral and evolutionary differences between Neuropterans (net-winged insects) in North America and Europe.

Professor Charles Cinnamon



Cinnamon and nine students spent the week before classes began

for the spring 2009 semester practicing winter mountaineering skills in the field. Each day was a full winter experience, in 15-25 degree temperatures, learning the skills of ice climbing and winter travel. The semester will find students learning about the history and design of tools for winter travel, avalanches, and rope physics.

Assistant Professor Doug Van Horn

Van Horn serves on the board of FUTURE MSAD 3, and is Co-Chair of the Athletic Enhancement Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of FUTURE, a grass roots community organization incorporated to enhance the local public school facilities. FUTURE considers not only the needs of the school community, but broad community use as well. Van Horn is working on the master plan for the specific enhancements for which FUTURE will



be raising funds, holding public meetings, and securing esti-

mates from vendors and the architects, to determine what the community most wants in terms of enhancements and to estimate related costs. This will then give FUTURE the monetary goal for the next fund raising campaign. FUTURE has already raised over

\$600,000 for enhancements to the performing arts facility, part of the new Mt. View complex. They are now close to completing the master plan and the campaign should start soon. Van Horn is also continuing to serve as the Chair of the Town of Freedom Budget Committee, dealing with tight budget constraints because of the present economic situation but with the added concerns relating to both income and expense for the new wind turbines.

Assistant Professor Timothy Peabody



Peabody completed his Master’s Degrees in Public Policy and Management from the University of Southern Maine.

Professor Don Lynch



Lynch was invited to present a training workshop on the Differential

Diagnosis of Psychosexual Disorders at the Maine Counseling Association’s Annual Conference in March. He has also accepted another invitation to travel to Kansas City, MO to be a reader for the Educational Testing Service’s AP Psychology Examinations. He will be one of more than 400 psychology professors and instructors from all over the United States and from several foreign countries who will be participating. Van Horn has coauthored an article which was published

in the December issue of the *Journal of Experiential Education* with Associate Professor J. Andrew McInnes. The article contains a critical review of the recently published book, *The Promise of Wilderness Therapy* by Jennifer Davis Berman, PhD and Dene Berman, PhD.

Associate Professor Christopher Marshall



Marshall has been working with his Researching Local Places class

investigating a Nineteenth Century African-American settlement in nearby Troy, using archaeology, oral histories, and documentary research. Marshall delivered a paper on the research at the conference of the Northeast Anthropological Association in March.

Associate Professor Nancy Ross

Nancy presented findings from her sabbatical research at two recent events:

September 2008: Common Ground Country Fair Teach In on Farm to Cafeteria.

June 2008: Back to the Farm: How and Why a Restaurant in Portland, Maine and



a School District in Riverside, California (Re) connected to Local

Foods and Farms. Meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society. New Orleans.

Ross has also submitted a

paper proposal for this year's meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society on her last semester's Environmental Citizen course, Hunger at Home.

The class developed research objectives, then worked with local partners to investigate and document hunger in the area, the recent history of, and resources devoted to, the problem, and the community's view of the problem and possible solutions. Students in the class conducted over 30 interviews with hunger relief program managers and volunteers, community opinion leaders, and other experts. They reviewed literature on the causes and nature of hunger in the US, and analyzed data on poverty rates, hunger and poverty program participation, and free and reduced-rate school lunch participation locally, nationally, and state-wide. The class also planned and carried out a successful bread and soup supper to benefit several organizations that fight hunger, Empty Bowls, to raise money for community feeding programs. At the event students reported to the community and to the press, and presented posters describing hunger in the area. This report examined current programs and resources, unmet needs, and included recommendations for action by the College.

Professor Barry Woods



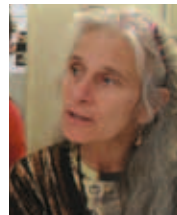
Woods has completed a research grant on Excel and nonparametric

statistics resulting in another stats CD; this one titled *Non-parametric Statistics Using Excel*. The CD will be used this semester as an aid in teaching Biometry.

Woods also presented at the New England Mathematics Association regional conference, held at Southern New Hampshire University in April. The title of his presentation is *JMP: A Statistics Demonstration*. *JMP* (or "JuMP") is the campus-wide statistics package used here at Unity College.

The College Board's Advanced Placement program has once again invited Barry to score AP Statistics Exams in Louisville, KY, in June of 2009.

Adjunct Instructor Randy Fein



Fein is completing a project with her Intermediate Pottery/Ceramic Sculpture class during the spring 2009 semester to design and install a relief tile work on an exterior facade on campus. They are considering a wall on the exterior of South and North Coop. They designed the installation to be mobile with the understanding that the buildings may be changed in the future. Fein documented the process with digital photos.

Assistant Professor Aimee Phillippi

Phillippi has been continuing her research into the invasive crabs of the Schoodic peninsula of Mount Desert Island,

ME, with another summer of filed data collection. She has been working with officials



at the Schoodic Research and Education Center on designs for a new

laboratory complex. Finally, with Doctors Womersley and Remsburg, she took a group of students to the 9th annual NCSE conference on Biodiversity in Washington, D.C. before the holiday break. The College once again had the largest group of faculty and students from any one institution at this important annual conference. (The NCSE conference helps set the science and public policy agenda for the country by drawing attention to an important environmental science topic each year. This year was biodiversity, last year climate change.)

Associate Professor Lois Ongley

Ongley was invited to speak to the Buffalo State University Women in Science and Mathematics seminar during the fall 2008 semester. She presented the work previously undertaken on arsenic contamination in the Zimapán Valley in Mexico. She gave an additional talk on her impressions of Saudi Arabia, where she once worked, in a Geography class. She will return to Saudi Arabia to teach Physical Geology for the third time in the coming year. She also recently



reviewed a manuscript for the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*.

Associate Professor Mick Womersley

Womersley carried out an external program review for two environmental programs at a different college, and reviewed proposals for NASA in their most recent funding opportunity (for sustainability



curriculum). His work as a content consultant for Peter G. Brown

and Geoff Garver's important new book on morality and economics, *Right Livelihood: Building a Whole Earth Economy*, was released in January 2009 (with a testimonial from Jimmy Carter). He has contributed a journalistic article on green packaging and a book review of *Sustainability by Design* by John Ehrenfield to recent editions of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*, and has been asked to submit an essay on his praxis of sustainability teaching to *Ometeca Journal*. Working with Assistant Professor Aimee Phillippi and Assistant Professor Alysa Remsburg, Womersley led a team of Unity students to the 9th annual NCSE conference on Biodiversity in Washington, D.C. before the fall 2008 semester break. During the fall 2008 semester, Womersley contributed to a *USA Today* article about the transformative potential of wind power.

Kate Grenier Keeps Alumni Office Moving Forward

Since the arrival of Kate Grenier in her role as Alumni Relations Coordinator beginning in 2004, the range of services available to alumni and scope of communications have consistently improved. Grenier serves as the primary liaison for alumni. With the experience of having served in a variety of alumni relations capacities while a student at the University of Maine, Grenier brings with her a catalog of varied skills which she has marshaled to achieve consistent progress for all aspects of alumni relations.

As the primary bridge between alumni and the College, Grenier's daily focus is to nurture a robust sense of connection between the two.

"Since 2004, the single most important piece of my job has been to improve and expand the alumni database," said Grenier.

Each day, Grenier keeps her focus on what is most important.

"Alumni are part of the foundation upon which a college is built," she noted. "They network through each other and current students to provide a plethora of connections that may never



have existed before. We know that alumni support the College through those connections and through donations. Without that base engaged and continuing to offer its support, the College will not reach its full potential."

Among the exciting initiatives currently underway is a partnership between Alumni Relations and the Career Resource Center. This partnership is creating new opportunities for alumni to connect and collaborate with students and each other.

"Partnering with the Career Resource Center allows the wealth of knowledge to flow easily from student to alums and back," Grenier said.

She added that alumni have many services from which to choose each year, and Unity is expanding those services with hopes to connect with more alums every year.

Alumni Relations Coordinator Kate Grenier is the primary contact linking alumni to the College. She may be reached by email at kgrenier@unity.edu or by phone at 207.948.3131 ext. 301. Alumni may also connect to the College at alumni@unity.edu.

70

JERRY HARDING is looking forward to retirement in 18 months. Juanita retired in May and is enjoying volunteer work. They are planning to repair their vacation home in Maine, where they will spend the summer months. They have five grandchildren.

73

DAVID DENBOW retired from teaching English after 33 years, and is back in college in his third year of a five year course studying to become a deacon at Loyola University in New Orleans. His wife Teresa is retired. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

STEVE AND VICKIE (DUGUAY) GOODWIN are enjoying their grandson, Aiden, age 3 1/2. Vicky is still an assistant teacher in Biddeford, and Steve is at Fairchild Semiconductors in South Portland.

DOUG THOMAS won election to the Maine State Legislature in November. He owns a retail firewood business in Ripley.

76

GARY and SHERRY (RUSSELL) WILLIAMS say "Hi" from Texas. Sherry is now the office manager for their homeowners association, which has its own water system. Sherry says she's putting her environmental science to use with oversight of water quality.

77

SYBIL BLAZEJ-YEE has been in the Los Angeles area for over thirty years now. She works as an adult librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library's Wilshire Branch. She paints watercolors, is in a writers' group, and has learned to play the keyboard. Sybil would love to hear from people who were at Unity in 1976 and 1977.

CHRIS SCHOPPMAYER was elected as one of four vice presidents for the Federal Law Officers Association. He was named vice president of agency affairs and will be the liaison to 65 agency heads. He has been a NOAA fisheries service special agent for 21 years in New Castle, NH. He was at the Career Fair in February.

His daughter, Erin, is a student at Unity.

78

RICH NEALLEY works at Fidelity Investments as a security rep, and just received a promotion after getting his New Hampshire EMT certification. He spends the majority of his free time hunting, fishing, and taking videos and pictures. He would like to hear from **CHERYL FENN '79, ROCK AUGUSTINO, and CORRINE POULOS '77**.

79

DIANE BYERS is an associate professor of biological sciences at Illinois State University, where she is chair of the ecological section of the Botanical Society of America. She attended the annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. While there she and Charles took extra time to visit Vancouver Island, Pacific Rim National Park, and Victoria.

80

RON DESROCIEERS received a merit award from the Maine Rural Partners,

Matthew Shejen '00



Matthew Shejen '00 is the director of the International division of MetLife based in Connecticut, and is responsible for managing the overall product development process for 16 countries on five continents; including Argentina, China, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

Shejen graduated from Unity College in 2000. He went on to earn an MBA at Western New England College with a concentration in computer information systems. He recently received a master's certification in Six Sigma from Villanova University. Prior to joining MetLife he was a business consultant with Mass-Mutual Financial Group where he assisted with business improvements.

Throughout his career, Shejen achieved several highlights, but an internship with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection proved especially exciting. "One day on duty, I was afforded the chance to guard the President of the United States as he landed in our park. At the time, that internship was very prestigious for Conservation Law Enforcement majors, but being able to say I guarded the President was a once in a lifetime opportunity." Shejen says Unity has always been a significant part of his life, but that experience was phenomenal. "It was thrilling to know that Unity provided me with this great opportunity."

a statewide organization devoted to fostering effective collaboration among tribal, federal, state, local, and private sector interests. Ron received his award for strategic initiatives and relationship building. He is a soil conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Augusta.

81

MATT MATTUS' first book, *Beyond Trend: How to Innovate in an Over-Designed World* was published in August. Matt works for Hasbro as senior creative director for Brand Design and Intellectual Property Development. He has two big green-houses, one for South African plants and the other for an alpine house. His blog has been featured on Martha Stewart and CNN.com.

82

JIM MORRISSEY had a small part in the show *42 Ways to Kill Hitler* on the National Geographic channel in November. His "job" was to do a medical evaluation of Hitler after an explosive assassination attempt. Jim is an EMT-P homeland security disaster and WMD preparedness coordinator for Alamed County, CA.

84

WAYNE BERGER is the director for challenge course design and installation for Project Adventure in Hamilton, MA. His daughter Jordan is a senior in high school.

RICK ROY and his Native-American Paiute lacrosse team was the subject of an article in the November issue of Lacrosse Magazine. He also coaches lacrosse at the high school level and summer camps. He and Cammie home school their eldest three of five children: Andrew, 17; Carley, 14; Kinnon, 12; JJ, 6; and Bradi, 5. Rick was promoted to field manager of the Three Rivers Resource Area of the Burns District. He oversees 1.8 million acres of stagebrush-steppe and forest.

86

BARBARA DRURY'S holiday wish came true - she had her picture taken with Barry Manilow! She owns and runs Manilow's Canine Playground in Leominster, MA.

PAT EMIG is contract liaison for K&H Custom Window Treatments in Treltortown, PA. She coordinates contracts for this commercial construction subcontractor.

KAREN (HOUSE) APPLETON will graduate in May with an associate's degree in nursing. She has been working at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for four years as a nursing assistant, and hopes to continue there. David '85 runs his own forest service business in Reading, VT.

KIM MCKENZIE is a land surveyor. She and her partner, Alison Gant, live in Sebastopol, CA.

SUSAN (QUARTERMAN) VAN ASSELT is a mental health clinician and is teaching mindfulness based cognitive therapy group for depression, which allows others to benefit from meditation. Arjan is teaching social studies and is working with high-risk behavior children. Daughter Sarah and Susan went to Honduras last summer working for an AIDS organization. Daughter Nadia is dancing 10-15 hours a week.

CHERYL SALVATI has her own concierge business, Cheryl's Home Services LLC, 26 miles off the coast by ferry on Whidbey Island, WA. She has been running her business for eleven years.

STEVE TETREAU'S book *The Bear Dogs of Katahdin and Other Recollections of a Baxter State Park Ranger*, published in November 2007, has been very well-received and is sold at the park, online, and at bookstores. He will have a book-signing at Wonderland Books in Putnam, CT on March 28, 2009. Steve is employed as shift supervisor by Foam Concepts Inc. in Uxbridge, MA. He and Pat have two daughters: Amie, a sophomore in college; and Emily, a junior in high school.

87

GREG BURR was named Maine Fisheries Biologist of the year in 2007. He and his wife Susan have three children. The oldest daughter is a first year student at University of Maine Farmington.

COREY FRANCIS is a field biologist for Normandeau Associates in PA.



Graham Buck '87

88

MARIA BROADBENT has a new job as environmental program coordinator for the city of Annapolis. She completed the city's carbon emissions inventory and is in the process of developing a sustainability and climate action plan. She and June purchased a new home. They were at President Obama's inauguration.

TODD BROWN is a challenge course builder for High 5 Adventures, a company that he helped to start. He has two children: Charli, 16, a sophomore in high school and Jesse, 13, an eighth grader.

KERRIN DAME is a senior physical scientist program manager at the Army Chemical and Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. She has an eight-year-old daughter and is working on a master's in the University of Maryland.

BONILEE DERLIEN'S is an administrative

assistant at Widevine Technologies in Seattle, WA but is planning to go back to school to work on a master's. Daughter Kayla is attending beauty school for her senior year of high school.

MARIE (MORENC) BARKER is a correctional systems officer for the Bureau of Prisons. She has been married to Kyle for nearly five years. They have a son, Jacob, 3, and live in Mississippi. Marie would like to hear from friends.

89

BRIAN ADAMS is a professional health-care representative for Pfizer, Inc. He has two sons: Keith, 10 ½; and Sean, 9. Brian has been divorced since 2006. He played in the alumni soccer game during Alumni Weekend.

DUNCAN CHURCHES has a new job as assistant manager of the city gym in Bowie, MD. His wife, Carol, teaches and is the after-school program director for Key School, a private school in Annapolis. They have a four-year-old daughter, Abbi.

RHETT (HUTTO) HUTTMAN is project manager for Project Canopy at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. She and her partner, Leticia, have a son, Elijah, 4. Rhett was at the Career Fair in February.

GREG SANDS teaches third grade in Gorham. He and his wife, Mary, have four children: Justin, 24; Stephanie, 12; Jeremiah, 9; and Amel, 8.

CHRIS WERHANE is executive director of Challenge New Mexico in Santa Fe, a nonprofit agency providing recreational opportunities for the disabled. For the past twelve years, Chris has been an instructor at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Co. He is also assistant chief for the local fire department. He and Jean have two children: Ally, 15; and Nate, 14.

CHRIS WIEBUSCH is a park law enforcement ranger at Acadia National Park. He was at the Career Fair in February.

90

TAMMIE (DEGRASSE) STAMMERS and her husband Scot have two children: Kristie, 10; and Jared, 5. She would very much like to hear from college friends.

JIM DOWD is married to Sharon "Bo" Abrams, and they have two children: Rebecca, 7; and Aiden, 3. Jim and his brother-in-law founded a business HelpGuest: "A Marketplace for Skills". It connects people with experts in a variety of fields.

RICHARD DUBOIS has been assigned to the detective division of the Augusta Police Department and is a special agent with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. He now lives in Smithfield. His children are Alexander Hunter, 9; and Chloe Rose. 6.

HEATHER (LINDQUIST) GERQUEST has a certified Border collie service/medical alert dog trained to perform tasks that help mitigate a person's disability. Heather is taking courses at University College in Bangor in adult mental health.

TRACEY HALL is a licensed massage therapist and a certified reconnection healing practitioner with her own business, Massage and Healing Practice.

KENICHI KASHIMA has a new position as environmental engineering technician at the U.S Naval Facility in Yokosuka, Japan. He works in the field of industrial wastewater management.

MATT MCCLINTOCK has left the corps of engineers and is now an environmental police officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He and his wife, Betty, a nurse's assistant, have a daughter Shelby, 14. Matt is still in the Coast Guard Reserve.

JAMIE SINCAGE is zoological manager at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando. He oversees a group of keepers and a collection of animals that include invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians. parrots, and birds of prey. He has been married to Kathleen for thirteen years. They have three children: Heather, 21; Zachary, 12;

and Laura, 11. He works closely with the education department and has met with several Unity students on internships.

ANDY WENDELL and Annie will be releasing their book *Welcome Radio: Tales from the General Store in March*. It is based on their radio show “The General Store Variety Show”. Andy is a senior chemist at Clear Water Labs in Newport, testing water and wastewater.

91
JOE BENEDICT has been named state waterfowl management program coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife conservation commission in Tallahassee. He will be working at the North Florida Waterfowl Field Station. Joe earned his master’s in wildlife science from Auburn University in 1998. He and his wife Lindsey, who gives music lessons, just celebrated their tenth anniversary. They have a five-year-old son.

MARC HEIN is laboratory manager at ClearWater Laboratory in Newport. He was at the Career Fair in February.

WHITNEY MESSERSMITH-FOSKEY and Brian have a new daughter, Heather Raine, born June 9, 2008. Big sister Aubrey Rose is 3. They moved to West Virginia where Brian is a chef. They hope to move back to Maryland or to New England.

KERRI (PREBLE) GODFREY, Dave and five-year-old Liam moved to Milwaukee in July.

ED RYAN is in charge of Multimedia Services at Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor.

92
CHRIS DAVENPORT is a petroleum transfer engineer (fuel truck driver) providing fuel for fighting wild fires throughout the western states. He is also an EMT and a volunteer firefighter.

93
TODD CLEMENT is landscape manager for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe in Mashantucket, CT.

HEATHER FRANCIS and her husband,

Charles Bitely, have a daughter, Kathryn Francis Bitely, born April 4, 2008. Heather is the school program director at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tanglewood Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville, ME.

MELISSA MCCALLA MANASSEE is a lecturer at the University of Colorado. She and Mark have three children: Marie, 7; Annie, 5; and Jimmy, 4.

JIM MCKNGHT is head of security at Shelburne Shipyard on Lake Champlain. He also works part-time for the Shelburne vehicle enforcement team. He owns Emergency Warning Systems Inc., selling and installing emergency lights and equipment in emergency vehicles. He spends his free time hunting and fishing.

JOHN and **DEBBIE (FARNHAM) MCMILLEN** have been married for twelve years and have two children: Christopher, 4, and Kaitlin, 15 months. John is a corrections officer for the Suffolk County House of Corrections in Boston, and Debbie is a stay at home mom.

DOT’S SPOT Quimby Urges Stronger Alumni Giving



Retired Unity College Librarian Dot Quimby has seen many changes since she began working for Unity College in 1966, the first year of its operation after being founded and organized by area townspeople in 1965. One change that has not come to pass that she hopes will take place is a greater percentage of alumni who give to the College.

“Unity College alumni should be giving at a level comparable to that of similar sized colleges, and I’m not talking the Ivy Leagues,” noted Dot Quimby in the library that bears her name on the campus of Unity College. Quimby added that some alumni may have the mistaken notion that more than a \$1,000.00 donation is required. “That is never what was being asked by the College,” said Quimby. “Any amount, even ten and twenty dollars, by each alum will help Unity College boost its giving overall. Small amounts add up and the larger percentage of alums who give help Unity’s overall advancement efforts.”

Some changes that Quimby praised were the improved overall academic quality, higher student standards and more females in each class. “There were years when to have two or three females in any given class was a lot,” said Quimby. “Now, things have changed for the better. It is a better college thanks to a balance in number of male and female students.”

JENNIFER (PEARSON) and JASON ’92 STOWE have bought a new house in the town of Pepperell, MA. Jen is still captain/ranger III for the northeast district of the Division of State Parks. Her K9 unit leader responsibilities and the coordination of seasonal training keep her busy. Jason is a computer scientist for the MA Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

RON SHEFFIELD is a water resources engineer at the Louisiana AgCenter in Baton Rouge. He received his master’s from Virginia Tech in 1996 and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State in 2002 in biological and agricultural engineering.

JOHN STEVENS is Director of Conservation Services at the Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charlestown, VT. He and his wife Tamara have two sons: Jed 10 and Quinn 7. John was at the Career Fair in February.

94
DAN BRUNTON is married to Mary Ann, and they have two children: Tucker, 6; and Molly, 3. They work at home for a government contractor.

ERIC HEINRICH is in his seventh year working for the town of South Windsor, CT Parks Department. He and his wife Anne have two sons: Campfield, 8; and Paxton, 5. He is planning on attending Alumni Weekend next fall, and hopes his housemates will be back.

PETER RUKSZNIS is a biologist for the Department of Marine Resources in Bangor. He is married to Danielle and has a stepson, Hayden, 9. Pete was at the Career Fair in February.

JOSHUA SOMMER is co-owner and therapist at the Moon Lodge Massage and Holistic Day Spa in Issaquah, WA. He has a LMP in massage therapy.

ROBB WISTNER is a security supply chain specialist for the US Customs. For his job, he travels around the world and just returned from Mexico. He and Laurene have two boys Koby, 9; and Keagan, 6.

95
CHUCK PENNEY is a USDA soil conservationist now working out of Belfast. He was at the Career Fair in February.

96
JOHN BLAIS is watershed project director for the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District. John recently received a merit award for audit program development. He also has his own company: Belgrade Bassin’, a fishing guide business. He and Pamela, a Kindergarten teacher, have been married for eight years. They have two children: Jack, 4 1/2; and Brooke, 2.

JASON DEJACKOME is an environmental police officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He and his wife Jennifer have three children: Logan, 12; Samuel, 4; and Ava, 4 months. He was at the Career Fair in February.

JUDI FRIEDMAN is a physician’s assistant in Charlotte, NC. She received her master’s from the University of Southern California in 2000 and practiced premed there for six years. She has a daughter, Morgan, born in July 2007. She is looking forward to doing some medical mission work when Morgan is a little older.

97
HILARI (BENSON) VARNADORE has been promoted to director of the office of environmental sustainability for Frederick County government. Her position guides policy, practice and partnership development in the areas of clean energy; green building; waste prevention; preservation; and sustainable economic development. Hilari and her husband, Jason, a musician and at home dad, have a daughter Bree, 3, and are expecting a baby boy in May.

AMY JANE (BURKE) BRANDOLO is the owner and director of The Dancing Bear Family Childcare Center in Uxbridge, MA. She has been married to Tony for five years and they have two children: Mia, born in October 2008, and Anthony, 3.

JENNIFER (COURVILLE) STAGNER completed her twelfth year working seasonally in the Gunnison National Forest in western CO. Husband Kurt is employed by the forest service and they have three children: Joshua, 5; Luke, 3; and Juliana, 2. In her spare time, Jen runs marathon trail-runs and also high-elevation mountain races.

JOEL FLEWELLING is a fish and wildlife specialist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He conducts surveys in caves and mines to examine the causes of white-nose syndrome in bats. He and Gwen have recently bought a new house in Poultney, VT.

DAN GAMBINO is a professional photographer in Denver with a website at www.dangambino@yahoo.com. He is married to Polly Anderson. They have a daughter Lily, born July 11, 2008.

CHARITY (ROBINSON) GOLLER is manager of the Rite Aid in Bar Harbor. She and husband Jay, a handyman, have two children: Aiden, 7; and Rylee, 4.

JO SCANLON works for a tech company in Massachusetts and has an eight year old daughter.

RYAN ’94 AND HANNAH (SMITH) Annis have a daughter, Laura, born November 12, 2008. Ryan is an environmental specialist III in the environmental office of the Maine Department of Transportation. Hannah is a marine scientist II in the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

LEIGH STANSFIELD, after thirteen years of seasonal work, is now a permanent worker at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

BILL URQUHART has resumed his duties with the Maine Forest Service’s Entomology Lab in Augusta. He will continue his work with exotic and/or invasive wood boring insect and help with the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid program. He will also be working with firewood importation issues, since these they apply to potential invasive insect introductions.

JOE ZIPPARO is a stewardship assistant for Coastal Mountain Land Trust in Camden, and manages two preserves. One preserve features 20 acres of organic blueberry fields. He, Barbara, and her 2 1/2 year old son, Malikai, live in Lincolnville, ME.

98

WAYNE CRONIN has been promoted to sergeant in the Wells Police Department, and was at the Career Fair in February. He earned his master's degree in public policy and management from the Muskie Center at University of Southern Maine. He has a son, Brandon, 5.

CHAD DREW and his companion, Cori, have started their own business, Sierra Stonescaping, which specializes in traditional dry-stacked walls, flagstone patios, and water features. He operates the business in the off-season from his job on a trail crew for the U.S. Forest Service in Inyo National Forest in CA.

RYAN HARMICK has been running the family business for six years, after working for NOLS, and is hoping to start his own business someday.

JEFF and **CHRISTINA (SMITH) '99 IN-GEMI** have two daughters: Sarah, 8; and Danielle, 7. He was promoted to sergeant in the Maine State Police in 2006, and is also a town selectman for Marshfield. Tina teaches bible class at the local Christian school. They started a Christian Cafe, called the Livingroom Café, a substance free location for young adults to gather.

JASON PELCHAT is senior project environmental scientist for Terracon in Manchester, NH.

AMY (RANCOURT) ST. PIERRE is a customer service representative for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. She and her husband, Matt, have two children: Noah, 5; and Carly, 3.

99

MARC ARNTS is an agricultural specialist for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Calais. He also runs his own busi-

ness, Turtle Town Baskets. He and **ALISA (MACARTHUR) '01** have two children: Daniel, 6; and Rose, 5. Marc was at the Career Fair in February.

CRISTIN BAILEY was at the Career Fair in February representing the White Mountain National Forest Saco Ranger District where she is trails manager/volunteer coordinator.

DIANA BOYD is a RN at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center/Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, NH. She received her RN in 2008 from New Hampshire Community Technical College.

JOE DIONNE is a landscape operations manager for A.C. Parsons Landscaping & Garden Center in West Tremont and Bernard, ME. He attended Unity from 1995-1997, and graduated from Florida Southern College. He is married to **CINDY (LISZKA) '98**, a vet tech at Acadia Veterinary Hospital in Bar Harbor. They have two dogs, Buster and Tara. Joe was at the Career Fair in February.

ANN HARRIE is starting her second semester of law school in Montana. She has a master's in public health from USC, and is a fish standards specialist for the state of Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

MIKE MAHMOOD is campground coordinator for the city of Seward, AK Parks and Recreation Department. He and companion Abby are hoping to make a road trip in October and end up in Maine.

OWEN MONTGOMERY is a wildlife specialist with the USDA, Wildlife Services in Berlin, VT.

ELYSE PETERSON is an education coordinator for Nearby Nature in Eugene, OR. She received her master's in environmental education from Antioch New England Graduate School in 2002.

DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER is in her last semester of law school at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland. She is pursuing an internship in the Attor-

ney General's office. She is also doing contract work for the Maine DEP. She is engaged to **JEFF FREDENBURG '00**, a GIS analyst in Augusta.

00

PETER DEANE still works for the US Customs and Border Protection, but he and **LEEANNE (OUELLETTE)** have moved from Maine to Vermont.

KEVIN DONNELL has moved to Maine and is the supervisory ranger at Acadia National Park. He and his wife Sara have a daughter Lauren, 10 months old. He was at the Career Fair in February.



Amber Hayden '00 and family

CPT. AMBER HAYDEN is an environmental science officer in the US Army at Fort Wainwright, AK. She works with the Wounded Warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan, helping the soldiers return to duty or to transition into a civilian. She and her husband Cory have three children: Seth, 5; Tucker, 4; and Winter Sophie Wain, born April 13, 2008.

TRACY LEET and Gaysha are engaged to be married. They had been high school classmates. Tracy is senior photogrammetry technician at James W. Sewall in Old Town.

JEFF "FONZIE" MCCABE won election to the Maine State Legislature in November. He is executive director of Lake George State Park in Skowhegan. He and Sara (Colburn) have two children: Carly, 2; and Finn, 3 months. Fonzie was at the Career Fair in February.

WALLY OPUSZYNSKI has a new job as trail director for Northern Forest Canoe Trail out of Waitsfield, VT. This trail links the waterways of New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine in a 740 mile canoe trail. He was at the Career Fair in February.

NATHAN PURINGTON is a boatswains mate in the U.S. Coast Guard Marine safety and security team of Boston. They specialize in anti-terrorism and security, and Nate is the leading petty officer of a 36 man team. Nate was married in October 2008 to Ashley Mondragon.

NICOLE (SHELL) PECORI is a senior project coordinator in land development for Clough, Harbour Associates LLP in Syracuse, NY. She is also a real estate agent for RealtyUSA. **JOHN '99** is a sales representative for Batesville Casket Company. They have two labs, Duke and Ben.

TOM STERN is a lawn and plant care technician for Belknap Landscape Company in Gilford, NH. He was at the Career Fair in February.

ANDREW WEINER is developing a financial advisory practice with a partner in Ann Arbor, MI. Their business focuses on green and alternative investments and holistic financial planning. He and his wife have two daughters: Lila, 2; and Penelope, 5 months.

01

TOM '03 and **JENNIFER (PETTIS) GREENE** have a daughter, Chloe Elaina born June 14, 2007. Both Jen and Tom work for Tooney Residential and Community Services, working with people with developmental disabilities, in Syracuse, NY. Tom is a program coordinator running an intermediate care facility for adult males, and Jen is a shift supervisor working with teenage girls.

NICOLE (LAZURE) COLLINS is career counselor and internship coordinator at Unity, and was in charge of the very successful Career Fair in February. She and **TRAVIS '00** bought a house in Unity.

02

AMANDA BAKER received her master's in ecology from the University of South Florida in 2006. She is now a graduate teaching assistant, working on her Ph.D.

AUBREY BELANGER is back home from Colorado and working in shipping for Jotul Stoves.

GINA CONDO is a lab technician at TEVA Pharmaceuticals in Sellersville, PA, but she has been out of work since June 2008 with Lyme disease. She hopes to go back to work soon.

RYAN GATES and his wife Erica have a daughter, Cora Hayden Gates, born January 18, 2009. Ryan is a registered Maine recreation/whitewater II guide for North Country Rivers as well as a self-employed carpenter.

ZACHARY KOZIOL is a park ranger for the Army Corps of Engineers. He was at the Career Fair in February.

AMY "BLUE" MACLEOD and **GREGG SHEDD** are now in Wyoming. Gregg is a wildlife biologist for a private consulting company in Pinedale, and Amy just moved there.

KELLY MARTIN is married to Mike Gold. They have a daughter, Willow Sierra Gold, born December 19, 2008. Kelly works at Johnny's Selected Seeds in Albion.

CHARLIE PITTS and **NICOLE STIER** were married on September 20, 2008, in Buzzards Bay, MA. Charlie is a fisheries observer for AIS in New Bedford, and Nicole is an EPA consultant in Boston.



Nicole (Stier) '02 and Charles Pitts '02

SARAH (THORNBURY) and PATRICK KIERAN '00 have a second son, Liam Theodore, born March 26, 2008. Big brother Owen Michael is 4. Sarah teaches 5th grade special education and Patrick is a national park wildland fire fighter/engine foreman at Natchez Trace Parkway.

03

TONY CARDOSO has passed the New York State bar exams, and when he is formally admitted, he will be a deputy county attorney for the Nassau County Attorney's Office in Mineola, NY.

DAVID CLARK has been elected president of the Maine Arborist Association. He is utility supervisor for Lucas Tree Experts, and was at the Career Fair in February.

JENNIFER NAGY and **TED FRAZER** are engaged and will be married October 3, 2009 in Miles City, MT. Ted works for the Fire Use Module in Yellowstone National Park and Jen works for the Bureau of Land Management.

ANDREW NELSON is a survey technician for the White Mountain Survey in Ossipee, NH.

OLIVIA "SUMMER" STONE and **BRIAN MCGORRY '02** are engaged. Summer is studying at the University of Alaska to become a nurse practitioner and has a part time job at a clinic. She also works in the summer as a program coordinator in Glacier Bay and as a mountain host at Alyeska Resort. Brian is a sea kayak guide in the summer and a ski patrol in the winter.

JOEY WERNER is in graduate school at Antioch/New England studying marriage and family therapy.

04

HEATHER BAKER received her master's in GIS from the University at Albany, SUNY in 2006. She is a GIS specialist for Washington County, NY.

ALEX and **SARA (DICKENSON) DELUCIA** were at the Career Fair in February.

Alex is volunteer programs supervisor and Sara is adventure programs supervisor for the Appalachian Mountain Club in Gorham, NH. They are expecting a baby in July.

JONATHAN DUMAIS is a park ranger for the Army Corps of Engineers. He and his wife, Amanda have a son Camden William, born January 10, 2009. He was at the Career Fair in February.

TRAVIS LEEMAN is a superintendent for SAB Network Services of Biddeford, ME, and builds communication towers. He was married on September 20, 2008 to Heather Brewer, a CNA. Last year Travis passed the Maine State Arborist exams, and received his first class utility arborist and first class landscape arborist licenses which he has used to start his own business.



Travis Leeman '00 and Heather Brewer

CAROL MOULTON is in graduate school at the University of Texas Arlington, and expects to receive her master's in biology in May 2009.

BEN WURST has a new job as habitat program manager for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to protect rare species. His job includes both restoration of habitat and management of nesting habitat for ospreys.

05

WESLEY BUTLER recently graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Acad-



Unity Rocks! Garden and Quimby Library

emy. He is a police officer in Rockport, ME.

SETH DUNN has a new job as spatial database specialist for the Maponics Company in Norwich, VT. He and Melissa recently purchased a house in NH.

CHRIS ST. PIERRE is a patrol officer for the Old Orchard Beach Police Department. He has an 11/2 year old German Shepherd K-9 dog, which he brought with him to the Career Fair in February.

06

DAVID BEDINI AND LINDA SNOW were married September 20, 2008. They are living in Columbia, CT.

MARCUS GRAY is a graduate research assistant working on his master's in wildlife at South Dakota State University. He is studying black tailed prairie dogs.

SHAWN GUILMETTE is a Law Enforcement Specialist with the Department of Homeland Security in Williston, VT

DANA KEDZIORA will receive a master's in conservation biology from Antioch New England in Keene, NH this spring. Her project is observing nest parasitism among waterfowl species in western Maine.

07

ASHLEY ACKROYD-KELLY and **MIKE BRADFORD '06** are engaged and plan on an October wedding. Ashley is a professional riding instructor and Mike is testing for the New York State Police.

SARA BLOCKER is finishing her thesis research on fish assemblings and mammal documentation in the Calaveras River in CA. In March she will be presenting her work at the San Joaquin Valley Natural Communities Conference. She will graduate with a master's in biology from the University of the Pacific in May.

RYAN CAUDLE and **TIFFANY PULLI** were married December 18, 2008. Ryan works for Stanley Associates National Passport Center in Portsmouth, NH, and Tiffany is a direct service provider for Residential Residences.

KEITH CROWLEY is the traveling natural history activities program director for Chewonki. He was at the Career Fair in February.

CHRISTOPHER GUILMETTE was recently hired by the US Immigration Customs Enforcement as a law enforcement specialist. He lives and works in Vermont.

CATHERINE HAASE is working on her master's thesis on the overall effects of climate change on moose at SUNY. She is a graduate assistant at the Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb, NY, and president of the graduate student association.

RYAN HOWES has been named experiential education assistant Unity, and he also was the soccer coach last fall.

GLEN LUCAS is a conservation officer for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

PETER NEWCOMB was a park ranger in interpretation at Mesa Verdi National Park in CO last summer and will return there again this summer. This winter he has been working at LL Bean in Mansfield, MA.

SARAH OGDEN is the program coordinator at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, but she was at the Career Fair for the Loki Wolf Refuge where she volunteers as special program coordinator.

PETER TALIAFERRO and Ilaria Sabatini were married October 4, 2007. They met while Pete was in Italy with Diane Murphy's course abroad.

NICOLE VINCI and Michael Kalkstein are living in Philadelphia together. Nicole designs flower arrangements and works in the orchid greenhouse of Robertson's Flowers, and Mike is an assistant teacher at Germantown Friends School.

08

BOB COSTA works for U.S. Fish and Wildlife at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells. He also is involved with the Maine Conservation Environmental group. He was at the Career Fair in February.

JARED ERSKINE is the manager of Acadia Bike and Kayak in Bar Harbor. He spent his summer in Bar Harbor as a registered Maine guide for sea kayaking and he also gave bike tours in Acadia National Park.

BEN GILLIS has been a field instructor for a therapeutic boarding school, Stone Mountain, since August 2008. He lives in Asheville, NC.

DUSTIN MEATTEY is a research wildlife biologist at the Biodiversity Research Institute. He was at the Career Fair in February.

Former Faculty and Staff

DIRK AND ULLI DUNBAR'S daughter Julia is modeling in Atlanta. Daughter Annabelle is in high school and hoping to become a veterinarian. Son Jeremy to play basketball and transferred from a D1 to a D2 school.

ED HINKLEY retired in July after 39 years as a teacher and administrator, and his wife, Louise also retired from the Maine State Library after 27 years. Ed is still coaching tennis at both Thomas College and at Messalonskee High School.

SUSANNE KIBLER-HACKER and Mark's son Christopher spent a month in China last summer in an alternative study program.

CHARLIE RABENI retired from the federal Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit in July, but will stay on at the University of Missouri part time to finish with graduate students and projects. Charlie and Jane have two new grandchildren.

DEB SUGERMAN was on campus in November to speak to WE Lead (Women's Environmental Leadership). She does a lot of foreign travel for her consulting business, Experiential Concepts.

Zachary Lehmann '06



Zachary Lehmann '06 is an environmental scientist for Great Eastern Ecology, a company based in New York that works strategically with clients from the public and private sectors to manage projects with a focus on ecology.

Lehmann began at Boston University and decided that wasn't the place for him. Growing up, Lehmann loved being outdoors. Once on campus, he loved the community, setting and woodlot and decided then to transfer into Unity.

He graduated in 2006 and his first job wasn't far off. "I actually received a call an hour after the ceremony from GEE offering me my first job." Lehmann was originally hired to perform biological surveys. Soon after, he worked on small projects including data management and environmental risk assessments.

His title may be environmental scientist, but that includes being a wetland delineator, GIS expert, biologist, ecologist and ornithologist. He largely attributes his skill and knowledge preparation to his education. "Unity is a great learning environment filled with people who have a common calling to work in the environmental field. You simply can not gain more experience about environmental issues anywhere else."

Stay Connected with Facebook and Alumni Database

The close-knit Unity College community is only a mouse click away. An ever growing online alumni directory is a valuable resource for the entire alumni community. Access the directory online at www.netdirectories.com/~unity/login.cgi. The Unity College Facebook web page is yet another resource for alumni to use when sharing their lives. To join simply visit Facebook and create a free account, then use the search term Unity College Alumni.



MID-YEAR CELEBRATION
Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services John Zavodny (right), was joined by Community Market Coordinator Sara Trunzo '08 (center) and Director of Student Health Services Anna McGalliard in performing at the Commencement Reception in the Art Gallery. Eighteen graduates were recognized at the reception. The December event was organized by Alumni Relations and Event Coordinator Kate Grenier and hosted by Senior Vice President fro Academic Affairs Amy Knisley.

Career Fair Reunites Old Friends



The Unity College Environmental Career Fair 2009 was both a way for employers to meet with talented potential employees and an occasion for alumni to reunite. Alumni attending the fair were: **LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT ROW 1:** Gunther, Jen Noonan '01, Jon Dumais '03, Ryan Howes '04, Nicole Collins '00, Chris Weibusch '89. **ROW 2:** Chris St. Pierre '05, Matthew Holmes '05, John Stevens '93, Emily Jones '04, Jason Dejackome '96, Lee Griffith '70, Alex Delucia '03, Sara Delucia '04, Amanda Hardaswick '07, Rhett Huttman '89, Marc Arnts '99, Nancy Zane '88, Nathan Podsiadlo '99, Jay Perez '05. **ROW 3:** Sarah Ogden '07, Walter Opuszynski '00, Bob Costa '08, Jason Cooke '00, Marc Hein '90, Zachary Koziol '02, Dustin Meattley '08, John Wimsatt '91, Joe Dionne '99, Dave Clark '03, Jeff McCabe '00, Tom Stern '00, Cristin Bailey '98, Paul Sannicandro '96, Peter Ruksznis '94, Chuck Penny '95. **NOT PICTURED:** Keith Crowley '07, Chris Schoppmeyer '77, Mark Dufresne '96.

SOCCER FOR KICKS

During Alumni Weekend last fall the Unity College men's alumni soccer team played the College's men's varsity soccer team. It was a closely contested game where good fellowship defined each participant as a winner. The alumni team won 4-2.



Left to Right Front Row: Brian Adams '89, Ed Hurlburt '90, Andy Brower '03, Nick Shown '08, Dax Pinto '99, Peter Taliaferro '07, John Korkus Left to Right Back Row: Dave Clark '03, Ryan Howes '07, Peter Farrington '00, Matt Belonick '07, Larry Johannesman '84, Luke Savoy '99, Jeff Dunham '00, Coach Gary Zane '83.



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Unity's Connection to American History

Interim sustainability coordinator, Aaron Witham (inset, left) and Sara Trunzo '08, Unity's Community Market Coordinator, pose next to a display of a solar panel formerly atop the White House during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. Witham and Trunzo attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama broadcast LIVE at

the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts in Unity. The panel was on display in the lobby. Trunzo was featured in the documentary about the panels entitled *A Road Not Taken*, by Swiss filmmakers Christina Hemauer and Roman Keller. It was screened during the 2008 Maine International Film Festival in Waterville, Maine.

